Homunculus

HIDEO
YAMAMOTO

1-2

Homunculus

HIDEO YAMAMOTO

Volume 1

ドゥ RMB
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ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ

RMB F"
RMB F"
RMB F"
RMB F"

KA—
CHK

BA-
TNK

SHKA

SHKA

SLINK

シャカ SHAKA

シャカ SHAKA

シャカ SHAKA

BLSH

BLSH

BLSH

HEYA.

FWSH FWSH

GOOD MORNING, KEN-SAN.

SHKA SHKA SHKA SHKA

I TELL YA WHAT, THOUGH, CAR GUY.

MIGHTY COLD, *EH?*

FWIP

SHKA SHKA

I COULD NEVER SLEEP IN A TEENY LI'L BOX LIKE *THAT* EVERY DANG NIGHT.

THAT'S DECEMBER FOR YOU, I SUPPOSE.

AIN'T IT 'BOUT TIME T'SET UP A TENT OR SOMETHIN'?

GLUG GLUG GLUG

BUT YOU'D BE SURPRISED. THAT CAR IS ACTUALLY ...

IT'S NICE OF YOU TO WORRY.

SPLASH

PTOO!

PRETTY COZY.

KURO! GIVE 'ER BACK, YOU LITTLE...!

HA HA HA HA!

AH!

YANK

KNOCK IT OFF, KURO!

YOU LEAVE THEM WASHIN'S ALONE! I JUS' FINISHED THOSE!

HA HA...

KAW!

KAW!

KAW~

♪ ♪ ♫

RSTL ゴ〃 リ

RSTL ゴ〃 リ

RSTL ゴ〃 リ

〃 FLAP

〃 FLAP

〃 FLAP

AGH! FILTHY!

GIT! GO ON, GIT!

KAW

YAGH!

BWAP

PEACE, NO HONOR

YESSIR.

GOTCHER NOSE INNA BOOK AGAIN, EH?

HOWDY.

HOWZIT GOIN', CAR GUY?

HMM ...

HOW ABOUT YOU? ANY PLANS?

IT'S GOING ALL RIGHT.

REALLY? THIS EARLY?

GUESS I'LL HIT TH'HAY.

WHY NOT? NOT MUCH ELSE T'DO 'ROUND HERE.

PEACE
HONOR

SHMP

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.

SHRIIIII...

SHRI-

PT
PT

.....

SHRIIIII

SUSU

SHP

ヒソ
ヒソ

ゲ…

FWP

6

ナイスリバウンド

GOT IT.

BLINK

PT PT

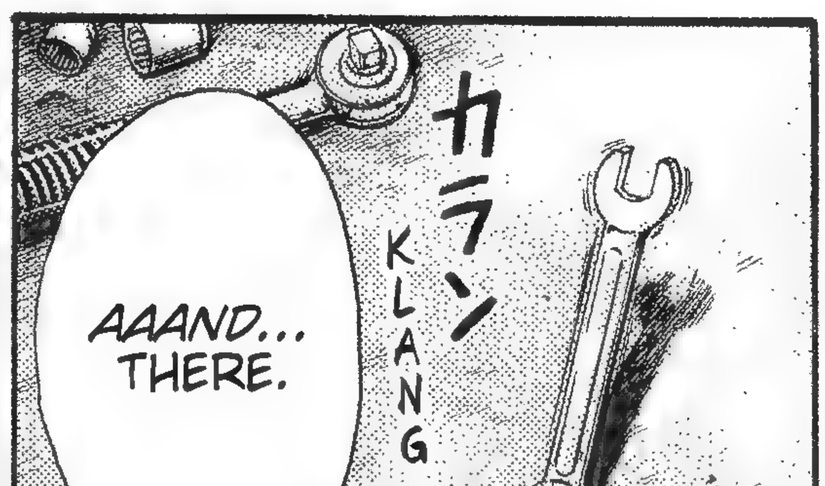
DAN

CAN'T HIDE YOUR FEELINGS FROM *ME*, OLD GIRL.

FIDDLE FIDDLE

AHA! KNEW IT.

BA-
TNK


AAAND...
THERE.
カラン
KLANG

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

PSSP!
PSSP!
PSSP!

KAH!!

THWUK

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

PSSP!

PSSP!

PSSP!

AGAIN? SHUCKS, CAR GUY, YOU SPOIL US ROTTEN!

C'MON, SIT!

ANYONE WANT DRINKS? IT'S ON ME.

WHOO! FREE BOOZE!

TNK

THE FOOD SMELLS GREAT.

DON'T IT?

!

STORY GOES HE USED T'BE A REAL CHEF.

WE CALL HIM THE COOK. HE'S PRETTY NEW 'ROUND HERE.

FIVE... STAR?

LI'L FIVE STAR OVER THERE SURE KNOWS HIS WAY 'ROUND A SPATULA, I TELL YOU WHAT.

DERN RIGHT.

HE'S GREAT. ANYTHIN' HALFWAY EDIBLE WE GRUB UP, HE CHUCKS IN A PAN 'N MAKES IT ART.

BRBL

BRBL

BRBL

BRBL

THE TALENT OF A GENUINE PRO, *EH?*

I'LL NEVER WRAP MY HEAD 'ROUND HOW HE CAN MAKE OLD SCRAPS 'N EXPIRED CRAP TASTE SO FINGER-LICKIN' GOOD.

'N ONCE IT'S FINISHED, THEY THROW US ASIDE LIKE RAGS 'N TREAT US LIKE A BUNCHA DO-NOTHIN' BUMS! WHAT'S THIS COUNTRY COMIN' TO?!

IT'S LIKE THAT THING UP THERE! IT WAS WORKERS LIKE US WHAT BUILT THE DAMN THING! WITH OUR OWN HANDS!

I TELL YA, THERE AIN'T AN HONEST SOUL ALIVE IN OUR GOV'MENT TODAY!

DERN RIGHT.

"I DON'T RECALL," "I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW." BULLSHIT!

'N WHEN ONE OF 'EM SCREWS UP, EVERY WITNESS IS THE SAME.

OH, SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, 'MEMBER THAT RUMOR GOIN' 'ROUND? ABOUT HOW MAKIKO DOI FROM TH' LDP IS A **VIRGIN?**

"YEAH, I DID IT," I'D SAY!!

IF I WAS ON THE STAND, I'D TELL 'EM STRAIGHT.

DNK

KLINK

FER REAL?!

TURNS OUT IT'S FAKE. THEY WAS TALKIN' ON TV 'BOUT THIS GUY SHE USED T'HOOK UP WITH.

OMF

THANKS FOR THE MEAL, BOYS.

THEN THAT CHERRY'S *GOTTA* BE POPPED, AIN'T IT? *HMM...*

THANKS.

HEH HEH.

JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM A PRO CHEF.

IT WAS VERY GOOD.

HM?

SO, WHAT'S YOUR STORY? DID YOU USED TO WORK WITH CARS?

YOU'VE GOT QUITE AN EYE.

IN A SNAP.

YOU FIXED THAT THING UP SO FAST EARLIER.

TUG

ANYONE WHO HAS TO OPEN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG IS AN AMATEUR.

UH-HUH.

ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS LISTEN TO A CAR'S ENGINE, AND HE'D KNOW EXACTLY WHAT ITS PROBLEM WAS.

NAH. I JUST USED TO KNOW AN AUTO SHOP WORKER.

YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT ALL TOGETHER TO SEE HOW THE CAR IS FEELING.

IT'S NOT JUST THE SOUNDS. THE SMELL, THE VIBRA-TIONS...

SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

MY BUDDY SAID THE SAME THING.

"A CAR'S MOOD IS HARDER TO FIGURE OUT THAN A WOMAN'S," HE'D SAY.

IF YOU THINK OF A MACHINE AS JUST A MACHINE, YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE.

AFTER ALL, WE HUMANS CAN BE EVEN MORE MECHANICAL THAN MACHINES, THESE DAYS.

PHOTO

VIDEO

WHRR

106 MIN CM SP REC 0:40:34

BA-
TNK

HEHE
HURGHi

SO, HOW LONG HAS THIS "CAR GUY" BEEN FREQUENTING THIS PARK?

I THINK HE'S ONE OF THEM WHITE-COLLAR VAGRANTS LIKE FROM BACK 'N TH'DAY.

AN' HE'S WORE THAT SUIT SINCE HE GOT HERE.

HMM... WHAD-DYA SAY, KATSU-ZAWA-CHAN?

TWO WEEKS, MAYBE?

DERN RIGHT.

HUH?

WHITE-COLLAR VAGRANT?

BUT HE SAID HE WORKED WITH CARS, NOT IN A CUBICLE.

?!

GOT SO MUCH PRIDE, THEY REFUSE T'TAKE OFF TH' SUIT.

Y'KNOW TH'ONES. OFFICE WORKERS WHAT GOT LAID OFF OUTTA TH' BLUE.

?

?

HA HA HA!

?!

AW, HECK. CAR GUY STRIKES AGAIN.

HE TOLD *ME* HE USEDTA BE A SCHOOL-TEACHER.

TOLD ME HE WAS AN ILLUSTRA-TOR.

HE'S A BALD-FACED LIAR.

.....

HE'S A COMPULSIVE LIAR, MAKE NO MISTAKE.

'N FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, HE AIN'T GOT NO BAD INTENTIONS, SO I AIN'T GONNA PRY INTO HIS BUSINESS. BUT THAT BOY...

LOOK. CAR GUY'S ALL RIGHT. HE BRINGS US BOOZE...

JUST LOOK AT HIM. SEE HOW FAST HE SCURRIES BACK TO HIS HIDEY-HOLE?

.....

KNOW WHY HE PARKED HIS CAR OVER THERE? HE'S SCARED OF WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE SPENDS TOO MUCH TIME IN *OUR* WORLD.

MARK MY WORDS-- ONE DAY HE WON'T COME BACK.

ガチャ

BA-SHNK

PHEW~~~~...

NOTHIN' LIKE GETTING INTO A CAR T'CALM A MAN'S NERVES.

DAMN, I'M HUNGRY.

GRWL

BUT I AIN'T LIKE THEM BUMS.

FWP

VROOOM

VRRN
RN
RN
RN

DAILY ...?

?!

OPE!

THERE HE GOES. THE DAILY DRIVE.

EVERY DAY 'ROUND THIS TIME, HE TAKES OFF FER AN HOUR OR TWO T'GOD-KNOWS-WHERE, THEN COMES RIGHT BACK.

I'M JUST SHOCKED HE'S STILL GOT GAS MONEY.

PROLLY VISITIN' SOME GIRL OR SOMETHIN'.

WHERE D'YA S'POSE HE'S GOIN'?

THAT'S MY GUESS. ALWAYS COMES BACK W'THAT SATISFIED GRIN ON HIS FACE...

CD-09 ♪ 3:

TAP TAP

VROOM

WHO AM I? WHAT AM I?

WHAT'S THIS SORRY SPACE I OCCUPY?

CD-09 0:53

TAP

TAP

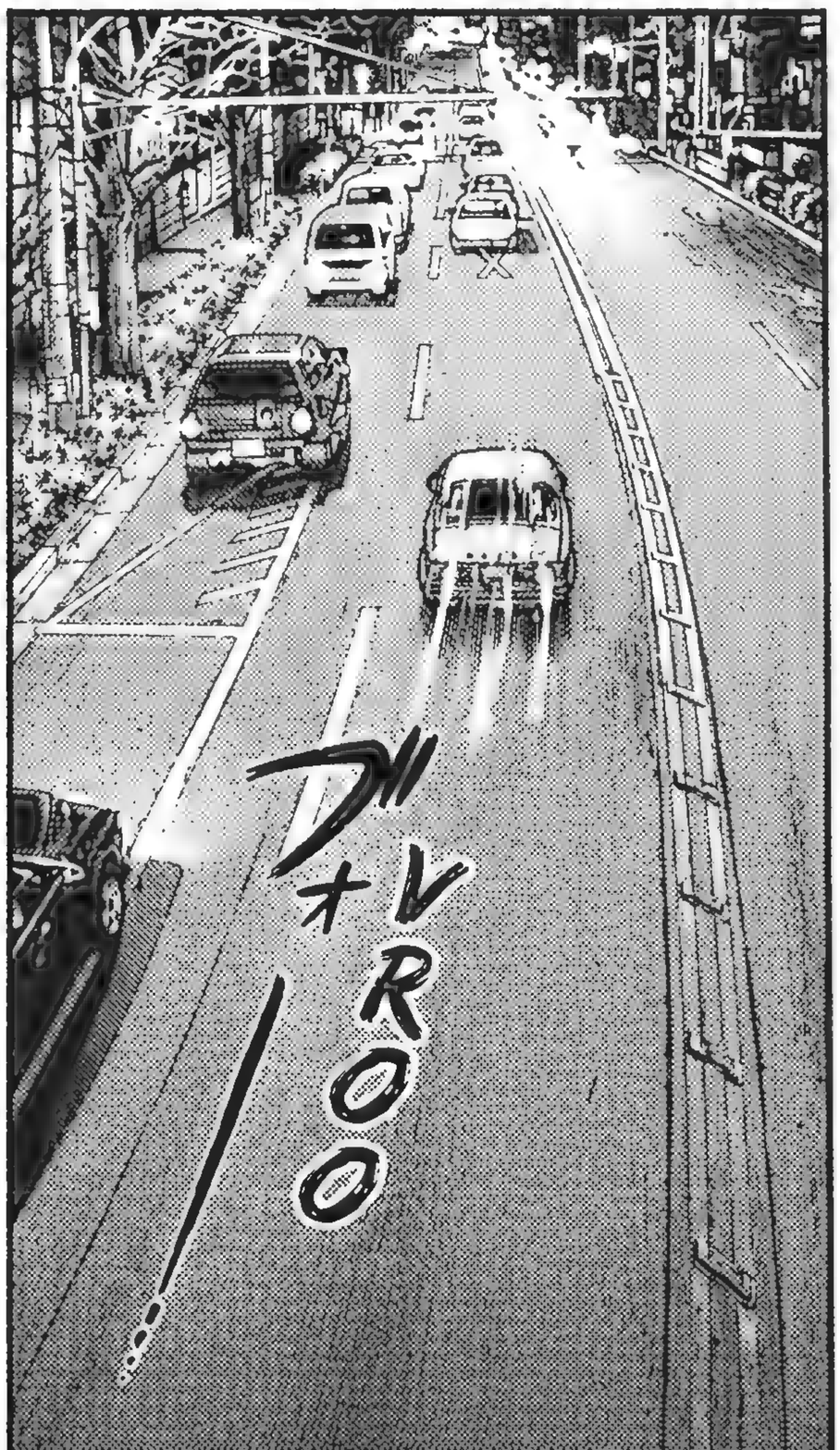
TWO HALVES, TWO WORLDS... FROM THE WAIST DOWN, ON THE GROUND, LIVE VAGABONDS, THE OUTCASTS...

LIVE THE AVERAGE JOES 'N JANES, JUDGING EYES DOWN-CAST.

FROM THE WAIST UP, HIGH ABOVE ...

THE BIGGEST RIDDLE, SUSPENDED IN THE MIDDLE, NEITHER HERE NOR THERE... WHO AM I?

AND HERE I AM...



*Graffiti: Roast it over an open fire

ザシュ

ザシュ

ザシュ

ハァ……

WELP. THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.

BA— TNK

WEST SHINJUKU AOZORA PARK

NO LIVE MUSIC

Please refrain from using any instruments, amplified sound systems, or other such amplifiers while in this park.

From the management office of
West Shinjuku Aozora Park and West Shinjuku PD

VRMM

VRMM

RMB

RMB

RMB

RMB

RMB

COLD AS BALLS OUT THERE. GUESS I AIN'T GOT A CHOICE BUT T'SLEEP WITH TH'HEAT ON AGAIN.

RMB

RMB

RMB

RMB

RMB

.....

EVERYBODY LOOKIN' DOWN ON ME WITH THOSE JUDGIN' EYES... MAKES ME SICK.

プー
PT
プー
PT
プー
PT
プー
PT
SILENCE
RUMMAGE
ゴソ
RUMMAGE
ゴソ
.....
!
E 1/2 F
THE GAS TANK!
RUMMAGE
ゴソ

I'VE FINALLY RUN OUTTA CASH, HUH?

GRWL~~~

CLENCH

I'M SCREWED.

I CAN HANDLE A FEW DAYS WITH AN EMPTY BELLY...

BUT WITHOUT DRIVIN', I...

I WON'T BE ABLE T'RUN ANYMORE.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

……?!

ビク JOLT

ル…

TOK

TOK

コ TOK

コ TOK

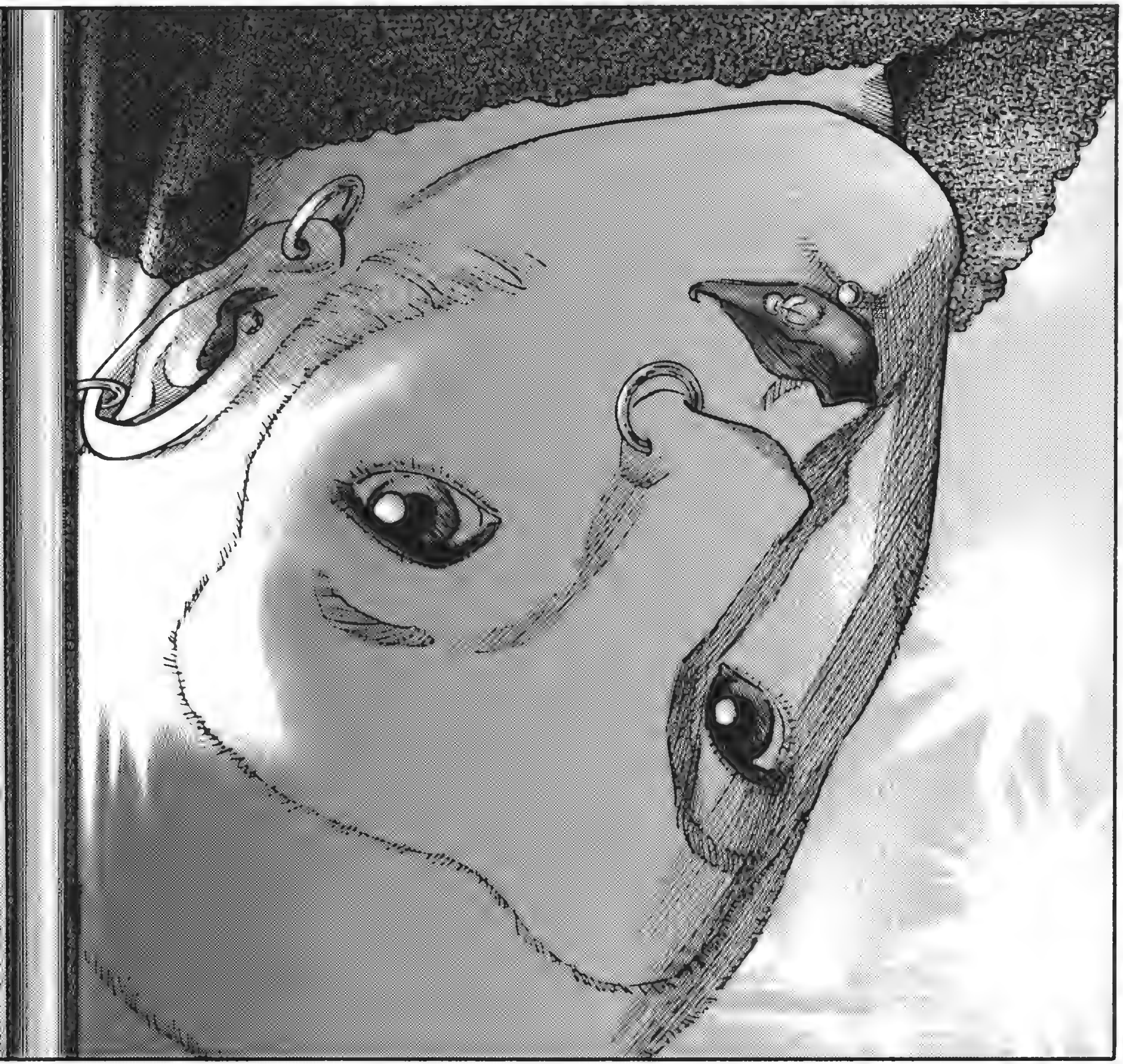
コ TOK

コ TOK

OPEN UP, *PLEEEASE!*

.....

DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT SHADY OR ANYTHING.



OOPS! CAUGHT ME, DID YOU?

I KNOW YOU. YOU WERE SKULKING AROUND THE PARK EARLIER.

YOU'RE HOME-LESS, RIGHT?

LISTEN ...

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I KNOW, I KNOW. "HOMELESS" ENCAPSULATES A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES.

BUT LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE, SHALL WE?

.....

NO CASH!

AND, OF COURSE ...

I'D BE WILLING TO BET YOU HAVE NO HOUSE, NO JOB...

LET'S GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.

I APOLO-GIZE IF I'VE OFFENDED.

SORRY. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN KIND OF BLUNT.

THERE'S A CERTAIN JOB I'D LIKE YOU TO DO FOR ME...

TWITCH

FOR SEVEN HUNDRED THOU-SAND YEN.

!

PLAP

ALL YOU'D HAVE TO DO IS TAKE PART IN A SIMPLE EXPERIMENT...

RUSTLE

AND... VOILÄ.

WHOA, HANG ON!

SHP

SHP

Trepana-
tion (the
act of
drilling
a hole
into
the
skull)

TAK

TAK

SEE? ALL I WANT TO DO IS OPEN UP A *TEENSY* LITTLE HOLE IN YOUR HEAD.

GO HOME.

BUT I SWEAR, IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL! FOR REAL!

NO, NO, COME ON! I KNOW, I KNOW, "HOLE IN THE HEAD" SOUNDS SUPER BAD...

IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM SHAVING DOWN YOUR TEETH!

ALL I'LL DO IS TAKE OUT A TINY PIECE OF BONE.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL BE TOUCHING YOUR ACTUAL BRAIN!

AND I WON'T HURT THE MEMBRANE THAT SURROUNDS THE BRAIN EITHER. IT WON'T START LEAKING OUT OF YOUR HEAD OR ANYTHING.

SO A LITTLE BLOOD IS INEVI-TABLE.

OBVIOUSLY, I'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE SKIN TO GET TO THE BONE...

PLEASE, JUST GIVE THE ARTICLE A THOROUGH READ.

AND YOU'LL BE SO ANES-THETIZED, YOU WON'T EVEN FEEL IT!

BUT YOUR LIFE WON'T BE IN *ANY* DANGER...

THIS GUY...

PLENTY OF PEOPLE HAVE DONE IT OVER-SEAS. IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE.

THE PROCEDURE'S CALLED **TREPANATION.**

.....

GREAT QUES-TION!

THE *BEST* QUES-TION, IN FACT!

SNAP

LOOK, MAN. WHAT'S THERE TO GAIN FROM A CRAZY EXPERIMENT LIKE THIS?

FWP FWP

YOU'D GAIN A SIXTH SENSE.

.....

PUT SIMPLY, YOU MIGHT SEE GHOSTS...

MANIFEST TELEPATHIC POWERS... THINGS LIKE THAT.

THE F...?!

NOBODY HAS EVER TRIED TREPANATION HERE IN JAPAN YET.

AND I'M BEING TOTALLY SERIOUS, I SWEAR.

WHAT'S YOUR DEAL? IS THIS A CULT THING?

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.

NO, NO!

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO TRY IT. TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES!!

FINE.

.....

I DON'T WANT TO.

GIMME THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND, AND I'LL EVEN HELP YOU WITH THE SURGERY.

THEN LET'S OPEN A HOLE IN *YOUR* SKULL.

NOTHING BEATS FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE, RIGHT?

WHY NOT?

.....

YEAH, BUT IT'S, LIKE... SCARY.

PLACE LIKE THIS, I'M SURE THERE ARE LOADS OF GUYS DESPER-ATE ENOUGH TO BE YOUR GUINEA PIG FOR QUICK CASH.

FIND SOMEONE ELSE.

WHY'S THAT?

IT HAS TO BE *YOU*. YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY FOR THE JOB.

NO...

LOOK AROUND. ON ONE SIDE, A HOBO CAMP.

ON THE OTHER...

A LAVISH HOTEL FULL OF PEOPLE WITH THEIR SHIT TOGETHER.

A GUY LIKE YOU, PERFECTLY SANDWICHED BETWEEN THE TWO... WHY, YOU'RE JUST PERFECT.

KRNK

KRNK

KRNK

KRNK

KRNK

?!

SHWF

SORRY, BUT I'M NOT PARTICIPATING IN YOUR WEIRD LITTLE HOBBY.

GRSH

SHK

A LITTLE "SOUL-SEARCHING," AS THEY SAY.

FIND SOMEONE ELSE.

I'M NOT EVEN HOMELESS. I FELT LIKE ROUGHING IT FOR THE EXPERIENCE, SO I TOOK SOME VACATION DAYS.

TUG

THE LEFT SIDE OF YOUR MOUTH GOES UP WHEN YOU LIE, YOU KNOW.

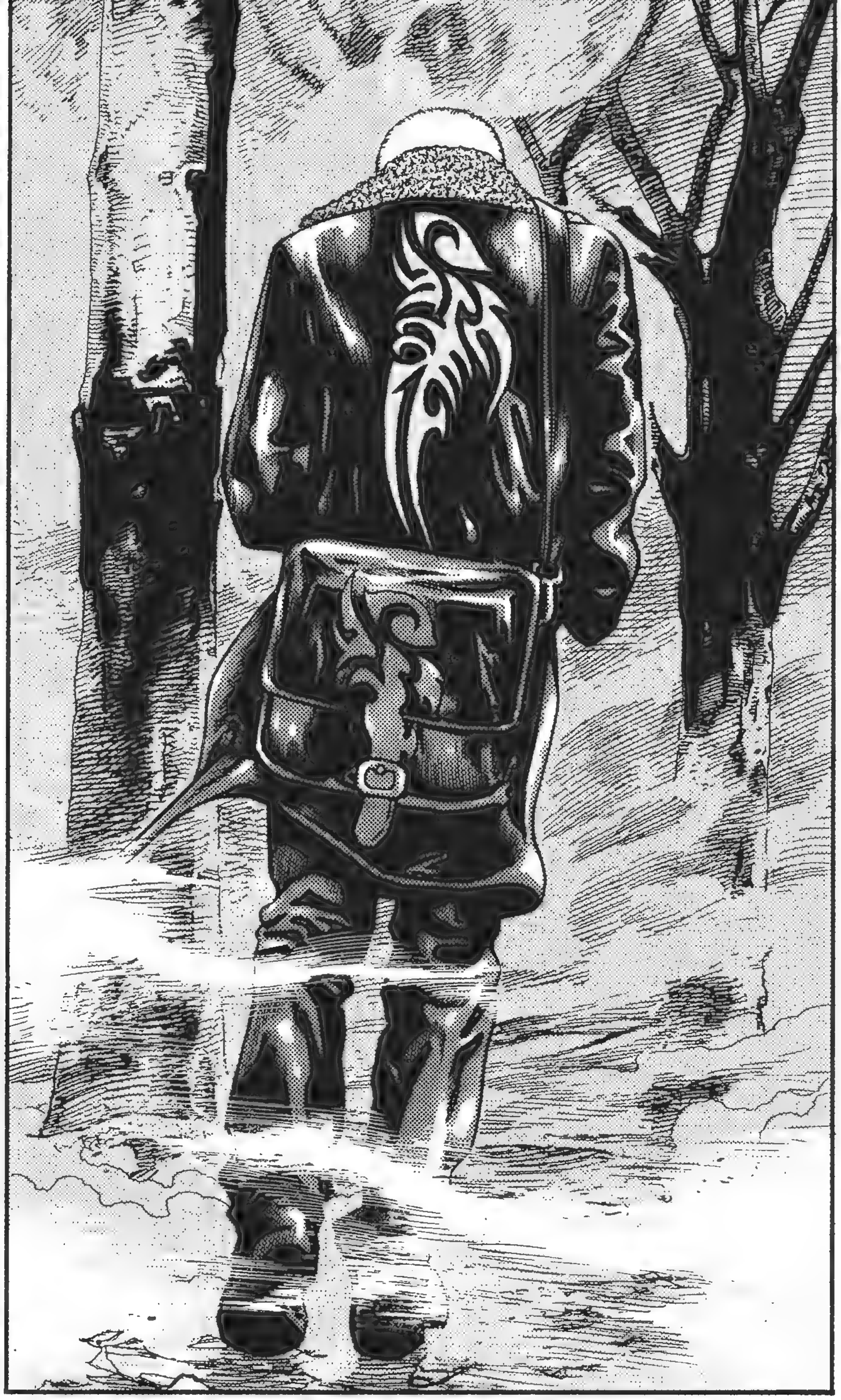
?!

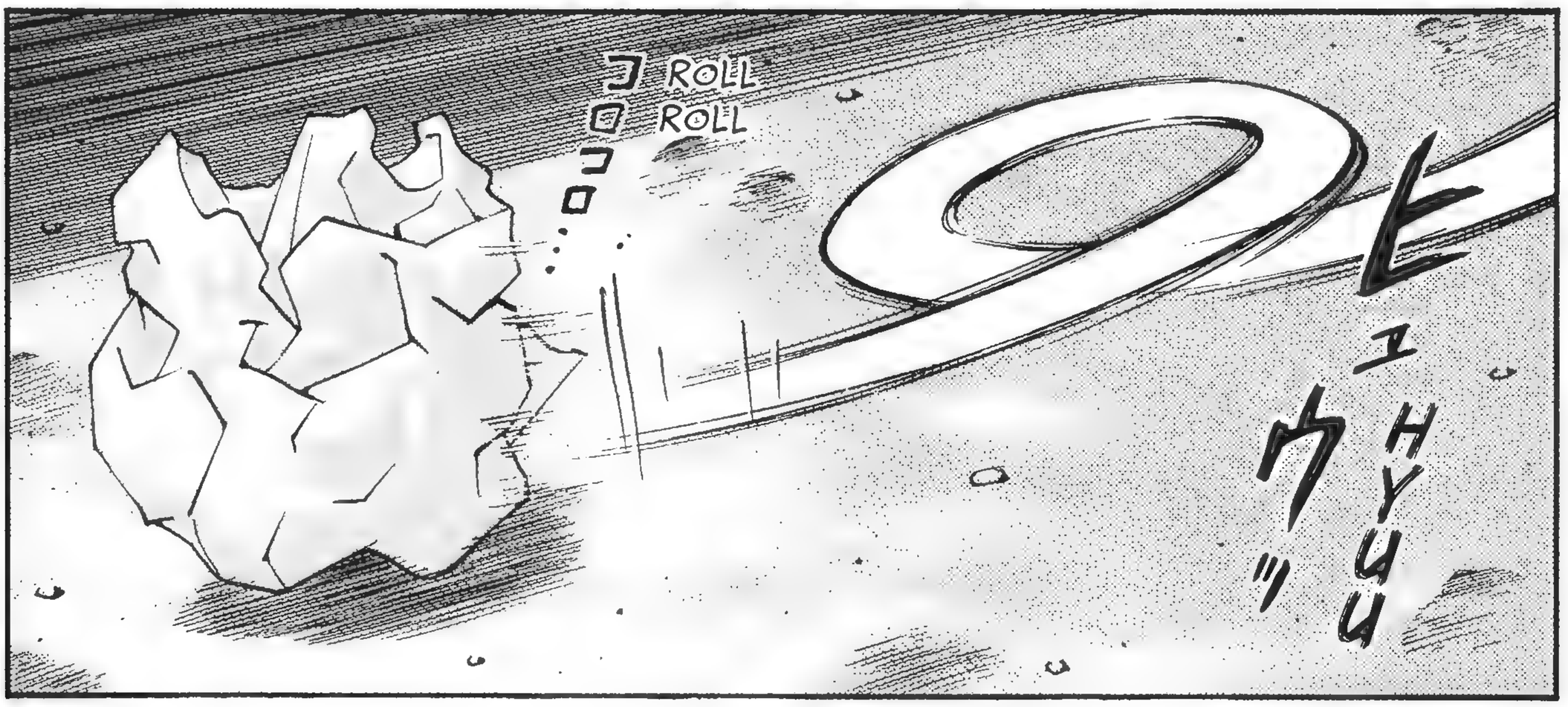
.....

KLAK

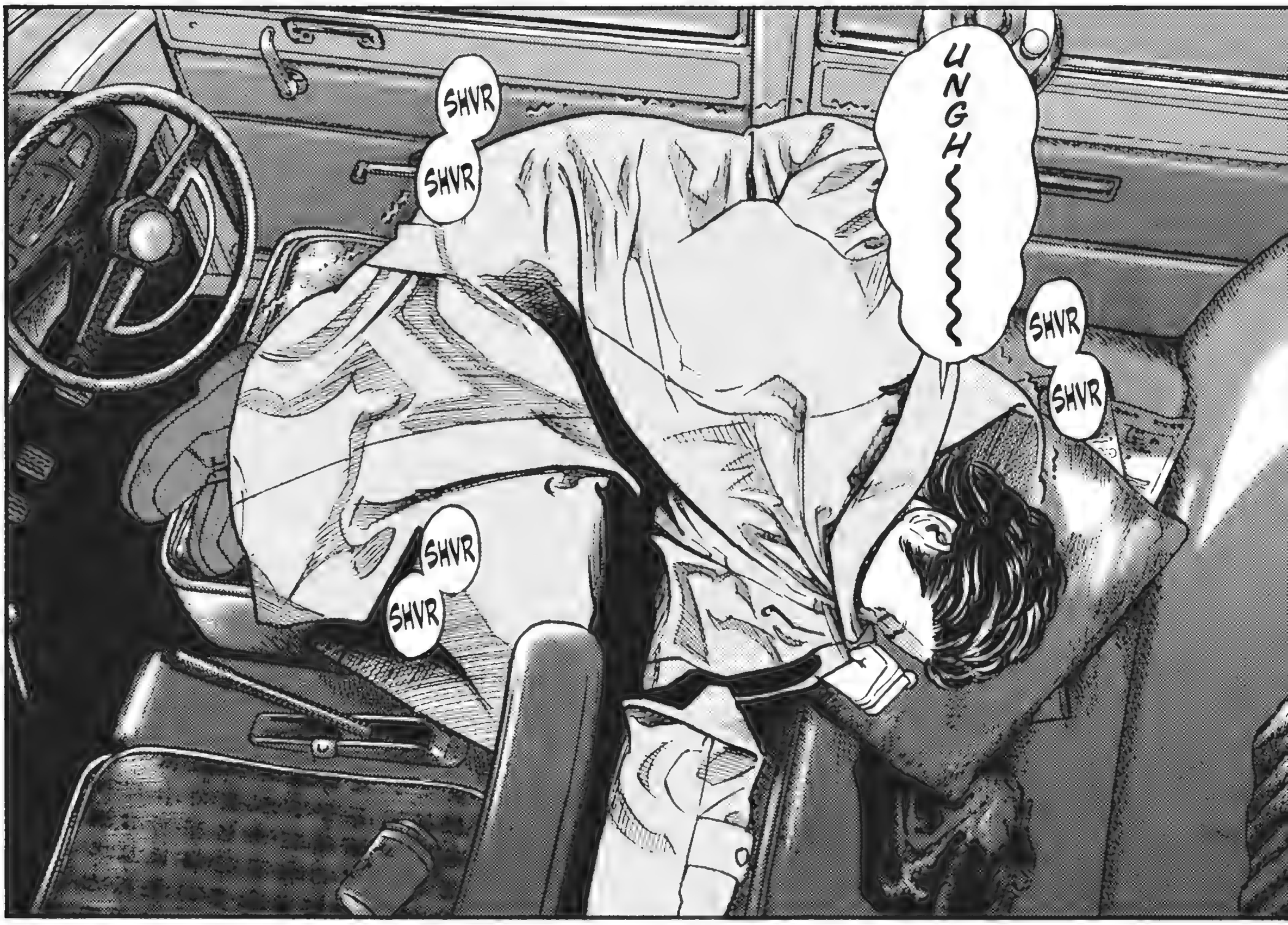
WHAT A SHAME.

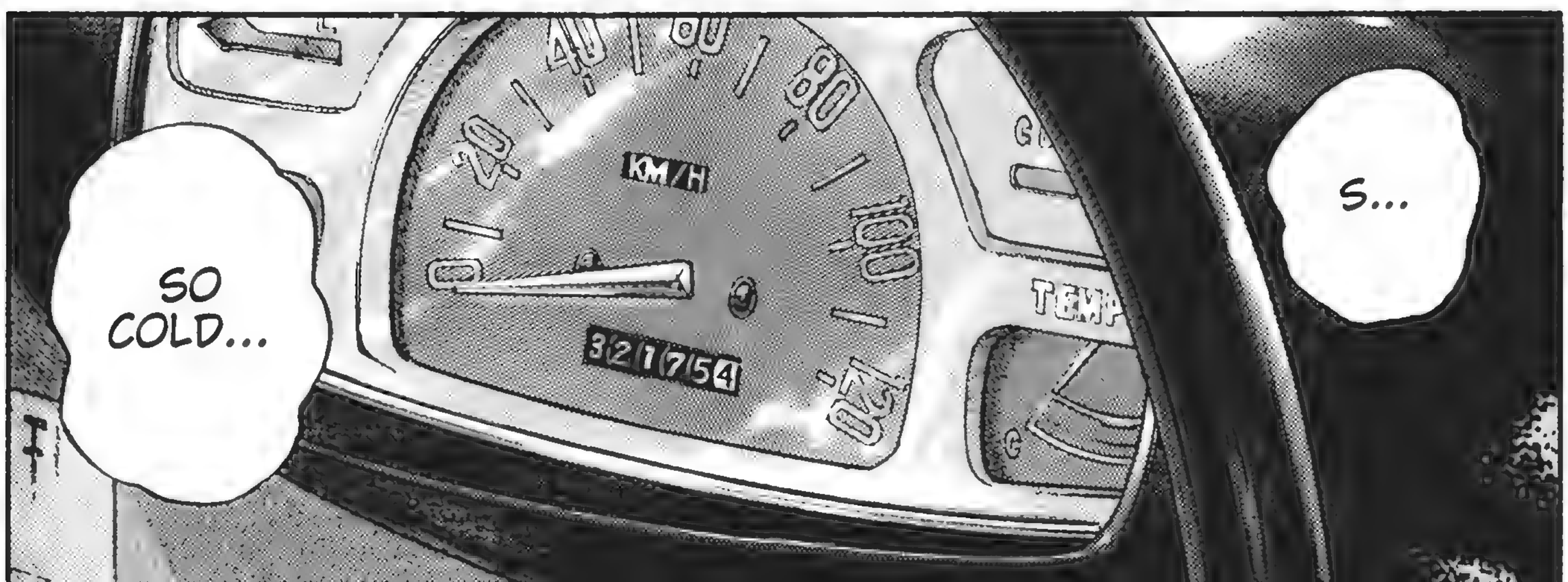
AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D FOUND THE PERFECT SPECIMEN.




ROLL
ROLL
CLICK
CLICK

HYUU


SHVR
SHVR
UNGH
SHVR
SHVR
SHVR


SO COLD...
KM/H
S...
TEMP

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

CHIRP CHIRP

YOU GOOD? YOU LOOK PLUMB TUCKERED OUT.

HM?

GOOD MORNING, KEN-SAN.

HEY.

HOW ARE YA, CAR GUY?

WELL, YEAH. A CAR MAY GOT FOUR WALLS, BUT IT'S STILL GONNA BE COLD AS A WITCH W'OUT A BLANKET.

IT WAS SO COLD LAST NIGHT, I COULDN'T SLEEP.

YEAH...

YA WANT IT?

JUS' FOUND THAT BLANKET THERE TH'OTHER DAY.

LOOK.

GREAT TIMIN', COME TO THINK.

SUIT YER-SELF.

I WAS ACTUALLY JUST ABOUT TO GET ONE FROM A FRIEND OF MINE.

NO, THANK YOU.

KEH HEH HEH HEH!

HOW DO YOU GUYS MAKE MONEY AROUND HERE?

BY THE WAY...

GRSH

MONEY? YOU THINK WE'D BE SLEEPIN' ON THE STREETS IF WE HAD *MONEY*?

COURSE, THERE *ARE* SOME GUYS WHO TRY AN' SCRAPE TOGETHER A LITTLE SOME-THIN'-SOMETHIN'. BE IT BY CRUSHIN' CANS, GATHERIN' BOOKS, SCALPIN' TICKETS...

BUT IN THE END, IT DON'T AMOUNT TO A BUCKET OF SPIT.

KRSH

SELL YOUR-SELF?

ONLY OTHER THING GUYS LIKE US CAN DO IS SELL OUR-SELVES.

?!

I FIG-URED.

!

YER IDENTITY, OR YER ORGANS.

SEVEN HUNDRED THOU-SAND YEN...

TWITCH

FIND THE RIGHT BUYER, YER IDENTITY COULD FETCH YA A GOOD SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND.

YOU'LL FIND A FEW OF 'EM RIGHT HERE AMONG US.

HUMAN BEINGS THAT DON'T EXIST IN SOCIETY.

!

IN THE END, ALL YOU CAN DO IS HIDE IT UNDER THE CARDBOARD BED IN YER TENT, LIKE A GOOD LUCK CHARM UNDER A PILLOW.

TROUBLE IS...

EVEN IF YOU GET THAT KINDA MONEY, WHAT'RE YA GONNA SPEND IT ON?

CAR GUY!

CAR GUUUUY!

?!

IT'S GETTIN' TOWED, CAR GUY! COME QUICK!!

YER CAR! YER CAR!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, YOSHIDA-SAN?

WHAT ?!

SHINAGAWA
(シナガワ) TEL
03-3775-1144
MIKI SUZUKI
TOWED BY
SHINJUKU PD
新宿署レッカー

WELL, AIN'T *THAT* A KICK IN THE ASS?

THEY SURE AS HELL ARE. 'TWEEN THE FINE AND THE TOWIN' FEE 'N ALL, I RECKON IT'LL PUT YA BACK A GOOD TWENTY, THIRTY THOUSAND. 'N IF YA CAN'T PAY, THEY WON'T GIVE IT BACK.

DON'T THEM TOW TRUCK THINGS TEND T'BE PURTY EXPENSIVE?

DERN RIGHT.

'N TH'LONGER YER CAR'S THERE, TH' HIGHER TH' FEE GETS, I HEAR.

THE HELL?! THAT AIN'T FAIR!!

YA BETTER PICK THAT THING UP LICKETY-SPLIT, CAR GUY!

THE CLOCK'S A-TICKIN'!

.....

SLIDE

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

ジワ…

PLP

ジワ…

PLP

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esume
eir attention!

Big 8

NO ENTRY FEE

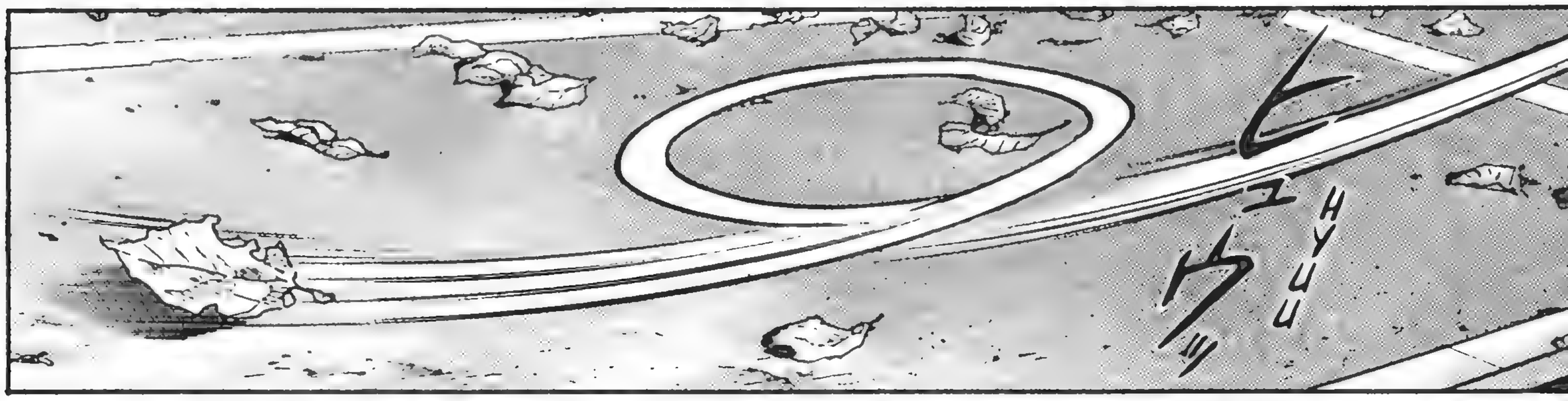
COME & GO

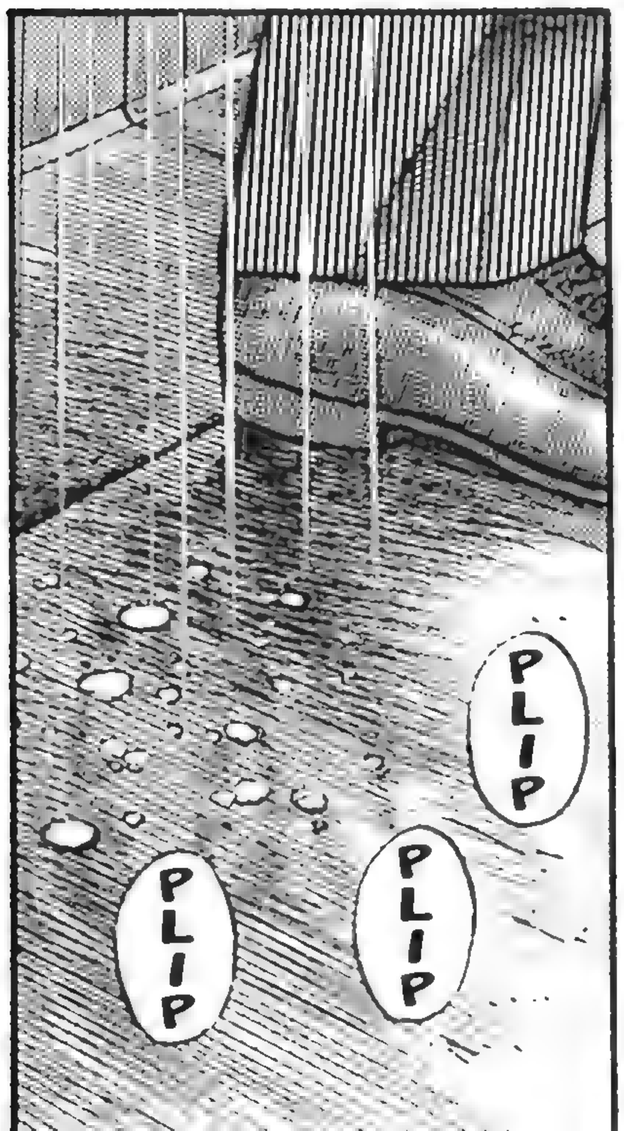
WALK-INS WELCOME

ENGINEERING CAREER FAIR! SPONSORED BY RECRANE

10~00
18~00

TOKYO INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION H


BUZZ
HUUU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PLIP
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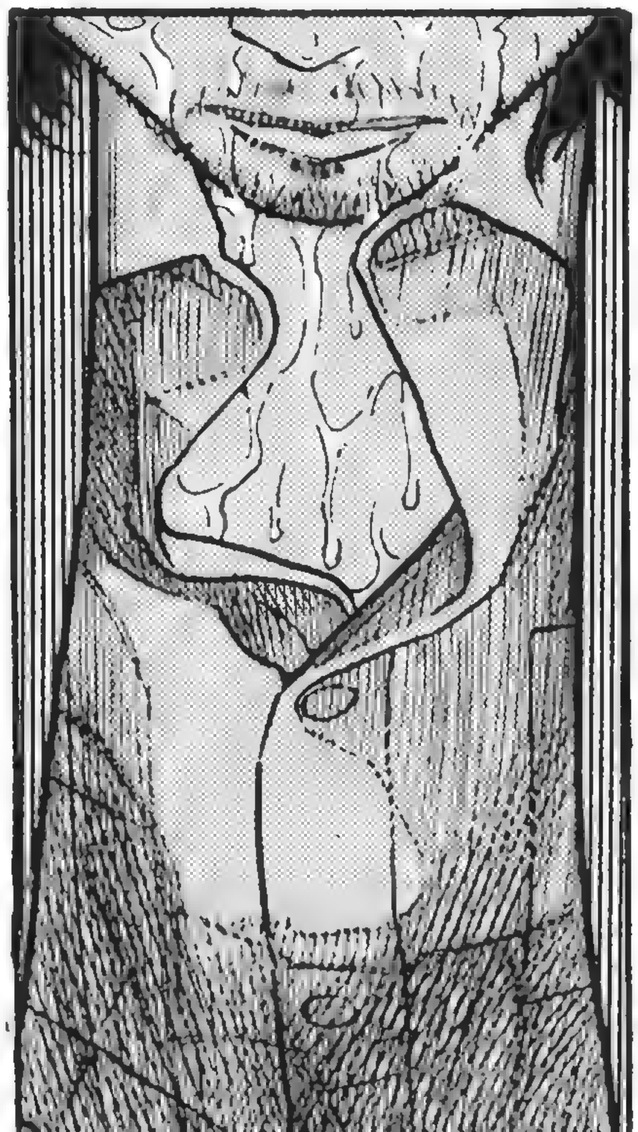


EEE
SO COLD!!

Stop lying to yourself. Find a job you really love.

!

FLIP

Stop
ying t

*Text: The job of your dreams!

NAH...

I DON'T *WANNA* GO BACK, DAMMIT!

I CAN'T GO BACK T'THAT LIFE.

GLANCE

GLANCE

AH!

WHP

FWUMP

FLAT

I...

WOBBLE

.....

HOOH

HOOH

QUAKE

QUAKE

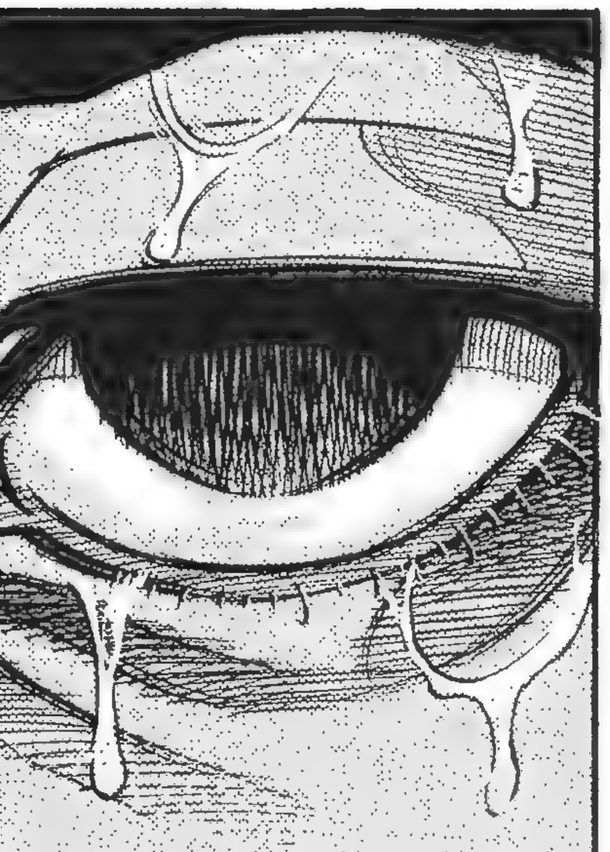
QUAKE

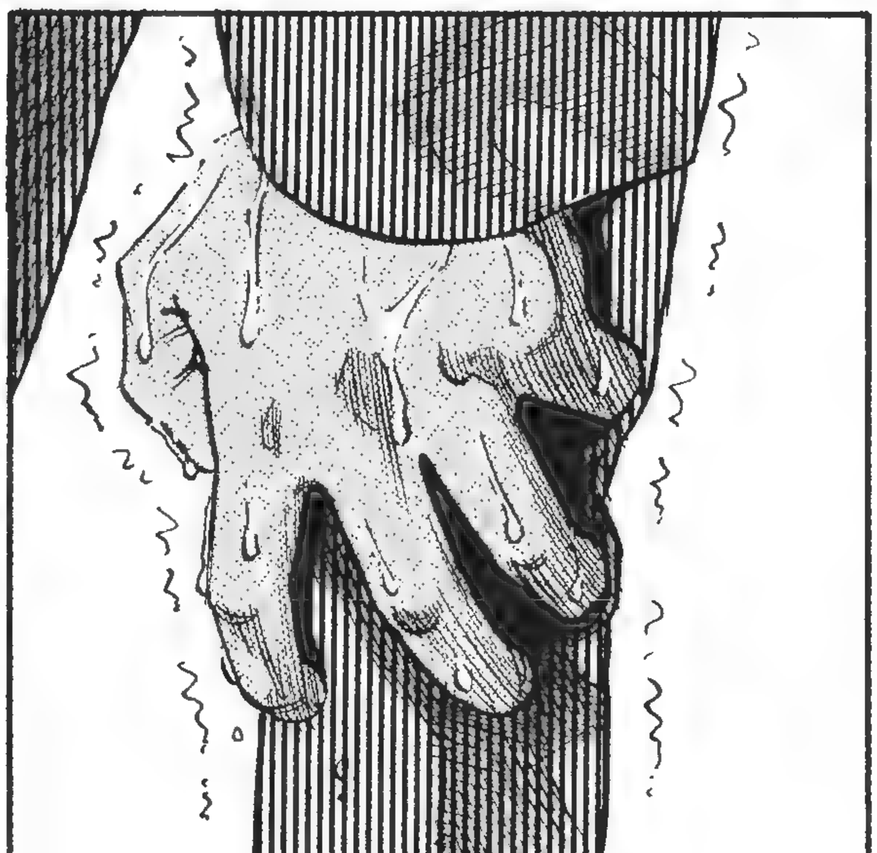
I HAFTA GET THAT CAR BACK...

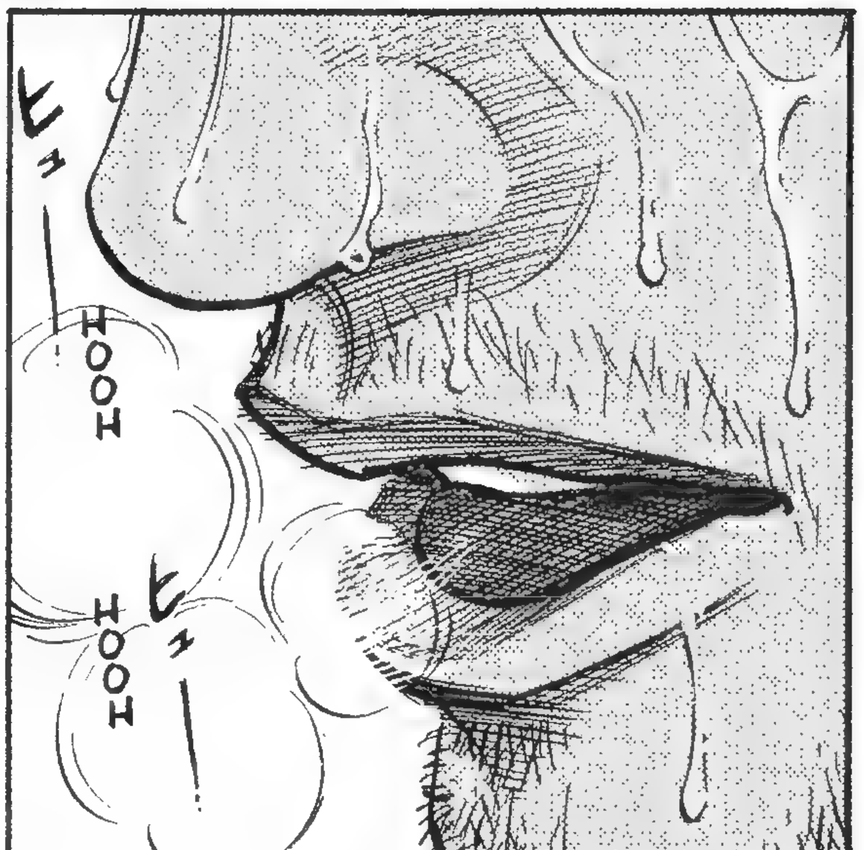
OR I'LL LOSE MY DAMN MIND!

HOOH

HOOH






ヒュー
HOOH
HOOH
ヒュー

IOOI—

IOOI—

IOOI—

IOOI—

SILENCE

KENNN-SAAAN?

KEN-SAN...

I... I GOTTA BORROW YER GOOD LUCK CHARM... JUST FOR A BIT...

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

KEN-SAN...

RUSTLE

KRK

SKFF

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

!!

SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND ?!

THE HELL KINDA JOB IS *THAT?*

!! PEEK !!

.....

WHP

OH NO, IT'S NOTHING ILLEGAL LIKE THAT.

YOU AIN'T GONNA ASK ME T'KILL NOBODY, ARE YA?

!

IT'S ACTUALLY VERY SIMPLE AND COMPLETELY SAFE.

SKFF

HOOH

HOOH

OH!

'SUP.

HEY THERE.

H...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHY DON'T WE REST IN THE HOTEL FOR A WHILE? MAYBE GRAB A BITE TO EAT WHILE WE'RE THERE.

!

YOU WERE AS SOAKED AS A NEWBORN BACK THERE.

.....

I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, Y'KNOW.

LEAVE THAT TO ME!

HUH?

.....

OH! NAKOSHI-SAMA!

!

PLEASE, COME RIGHT IN!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE SEEN YOU!

HEY. BEEN A WHILE.

NAKO-
SHI-
SAN?
USED TO BE A REGULAR, HUH...
.....

IT'S A GLOOMY VIEW, NO MATTER THE ANGLE.

WHAT'S THIS HALF SUPPOSED TO HAVE THAT THE OTHER DOESN'T, ANYWAY?

GTNK

!

YOUR MEAL, SIR.

SNIFF

SNIFF

JUST DON'T GNASH YOUR TEETH WHILE YOU EAT, ALL RIGHT?

THE FOOD'S MORE APPETIZING, AT LEAST.

GRSH

GRSH

GRSH

.....

GRSH

GRSH

GRSH

GRSH

!

FOUND THE RIGHT GUY FOR THAT THING OF YOURS?

SO...

FWP FWP

YEAH.

THAT THING.

FWP FWP

YOU MEAN *THIS* THING?

SHWP SHWP

KLNK

WHEW...

DAMN GOOD MEAL.

NOT YET, NO.

I'M IN.

IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?

FWMP

?!

REALLY? WHY?

DAZE

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAD MY CAR TOWED.

THAT'S *EXACTLY* THE KIND OF PARANOIA I WAS LOOKING FOR!

YOU GET THREE HUNDRED K RIGHT AFTER THE SURGERY.

YOUR FULL PAY IS SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN.

ONCE THE WHOLE THING'S OVER, YOU'LL GET THE OTHER FOUR HUNDRED.

THE EXPERIMENT WILL SPAN A TOTAL OF TEN DAYS, STARTING WITH THE DAY WE DRILL.

AS FOR YOUR CAR, I'LL COVER THE COST OF GETTING IT BACK. I'LL ALSO MAKE SURE ANY POINTS THEY ADDED TO YOUR DRIVING RECORD ARE CLEARED.

NO NEED TO PAY ME BACK. CALL IT GOODWILL.

?!

JUST BE FRANK WITH ME ABOUT ONE THING.

WHO THE HELL *ARE* YOU?

MY NAME IS **ITO MANABU.** I'M TWENTY-TWO...

NAME MANABU ITO
REG. ADD. SAITAMA PREFECTURE
REAL ADD. TOKYO PREFECTURE
ISSUED JUNE 10, 2002
30257
VALID UNTIL JULY 23, 2005
LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
NO.:
DRIVER'S LICENSE

AND A MEDICAL STUDENT.

SHFF

WHICH MAKES ME WHAT YOU'D CALL A "SPOILED TRUST FUND KID."

MY DAD'S A BIG SHOT AT THIS HUGE NEUROSURGERY CLINIC...

DRIVER'S LICENSE

NAME	MANABU ITO
REG. ADD.	SAITAMA PREFECTURE
REAL ADD.	TOKYO PREFECTURE
ISSUED	JUNE 10, 2002

30257

VALID UNTIL JULY 23, 2005

JUNE 25, 1975

I'M SURPRISED A MED SCHOOL LETS YOU DRESS LIKE YOU DO.

.....

AS FOR MY HAIR AND CLOTHES, WELL...I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT, MOSTLY. DEPENDS ON THE PROF.

I CAN ALWAYS TAKE MY PIERCINGS OUT IF I WANT...

AND THESE TATS ARE JUST DRAWN ON.

NONE OF THEM ARE REAL, UNFORTU-NATELY.

OH, I'D BE IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE AT SCHOOL IF THEY FOUND OUT, NO DOUBT.

AND YOU DON'T THINK IT'S A LITTLE DICEY FOR A *MED STUDENT* TO BE DRILLING HOLES IN RANDOM PEOPLE'S SKULLS?

AS LONG AS YOU'RE A CONSENTING ADULT, I DOUBT I'LL HAVE ANY PROBLEMS.

BUT TREPANA-TION ISN'T AGAINST THE LAW.

.....?!

BESIDES, EVEN IF MY SCHOOL BLACKLISTED ME FROM THE MEDICAL INDUSTRY, IT'S NOT LIKE I'D CARE.

ALL I WANT IS TO LEARN ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS.

HUMAN BEINGS ...?

I'VE BEEN STUDYING HUMANS FOR A LONG TIME NOW, FROM AS MANY PERSPECTIVES AS I CAN FIND. MEDICINE, PSYCHOLOGY, SPIRITUAL WOO-WOO NONSENSE...EVEN THE SUPERNATURAL ANGLE.

FWK

AN ACCES-SORY. I CAN TAKE IT OFF WHENEVER I LIKE.

TING

TING

TO ME, THE WORD "DOCTOR" IS JUST LIKE *THIS* THING.

COMPARED TO THAT, THIS EXPERIMENT, THIS "TREPA-NATION," IS *FAR* MORE INTERESTING.

FWP

!!

!!

FWP

A GEEK OBSESSED WITH THE HUMAN CONDITION...

IS THAT IT?

!

WHILE WE'RE SHARING, COULD YOU TELL ME A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

YOUR NAME IS NAKOSHI.

I'D GUESS YOU'RE ABOUT THIRTY-FOUR.

YOU'RE CURRENTLY HOMELESS, BUT AT ONE POINT, YOU REGULARLY PATRONIZED THIS HOTEL.

HOW MUCH DO YOU ALREADY KNOW?

YOU'RE A LIAR. THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

AND...

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OLD.

MY FULL NAME IS NAKOSHI SUSUMU.

FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS, I'VE BEEN LIVING OUT OF MY CAR...

RIGHT AT THE MIDPOINT BETWEEN THE PARK AND THIS FANCY HOTEL.

THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.

INDEED IT IS.

IN THAT CASE, LET'S PLAN THE TREPANATION FOR TOMORROW.

I'LL PICK YOU UP TOMORROW MORNING.

I ALREADY BOOKED YOUR ROOM.

PLEASE STAY HERE TONIGHT.

カタ KLINK

I'LL COVER THE BILL FOR THE HOTEL, OF COURSE. MY TREAT.

519

HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH ROOM IN AGES.

ぼ"
WUMP

……

スー
ZZZ

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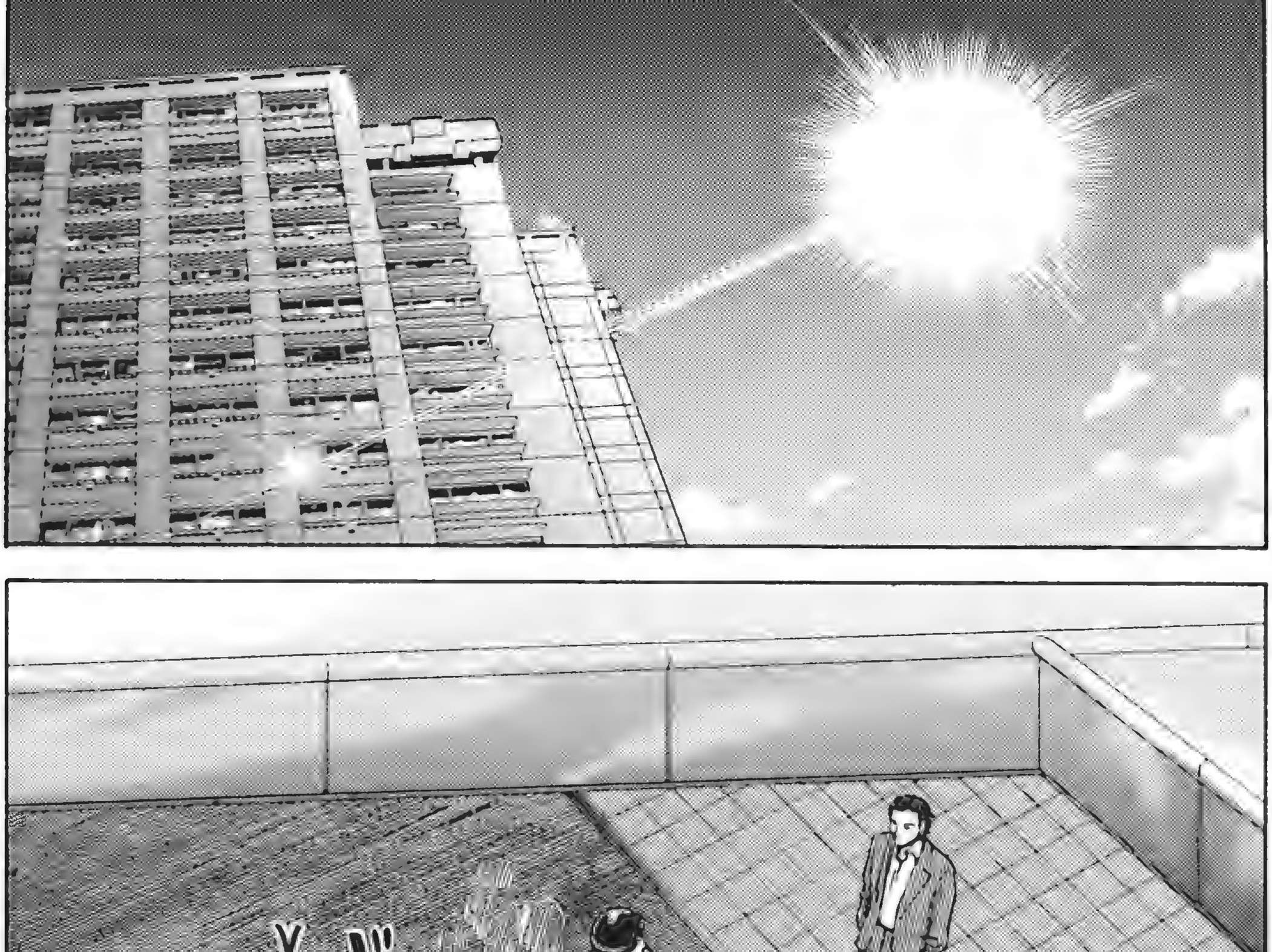
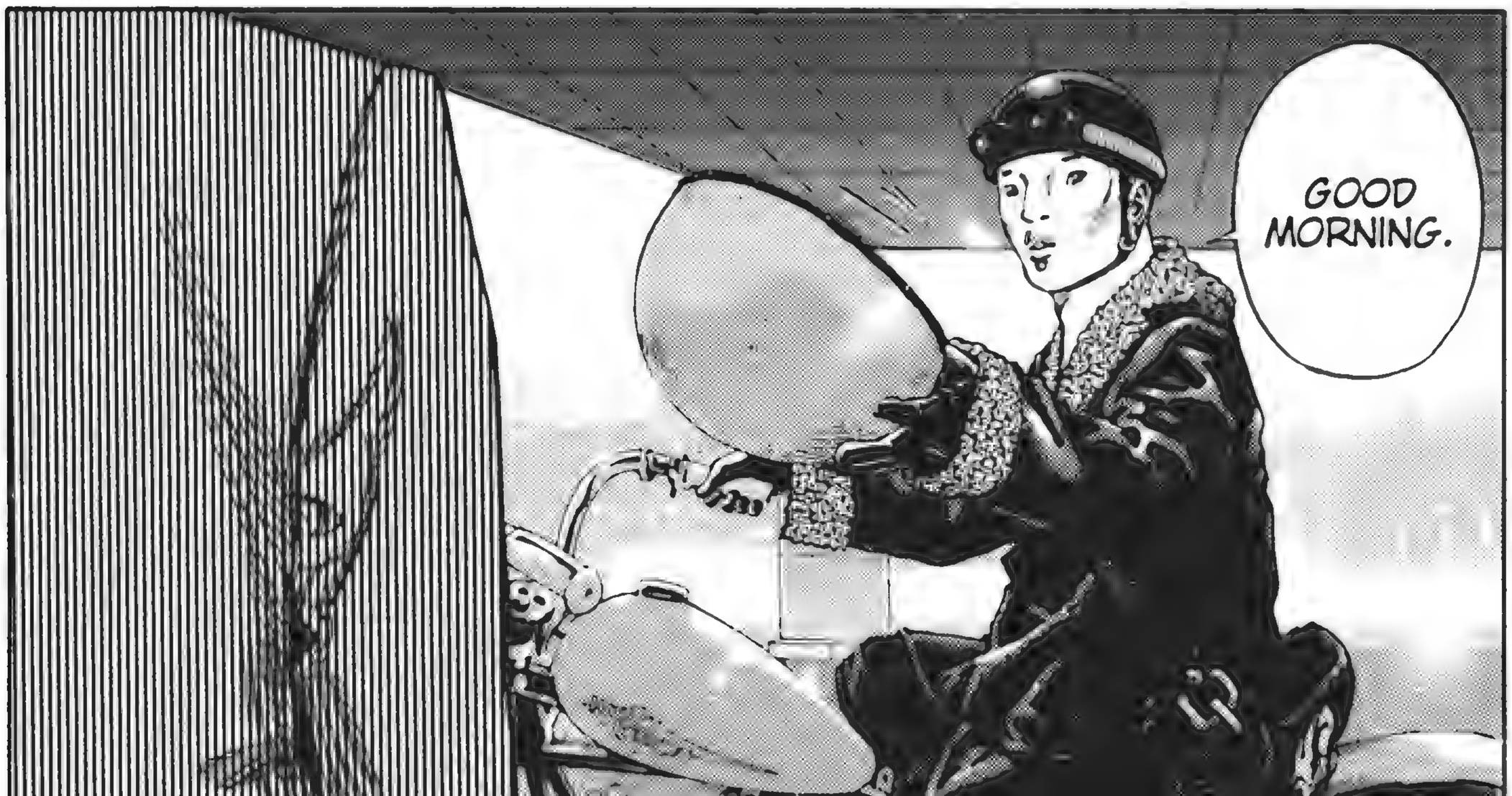
ZZZ

スー
ZZZ


VRRRM


GOOD MORNING.

!

WHAT'S THAT STUFF UNDER YOUR EYES?

PLOP

LOOKS KINDA MYSTIC, HUH?

OH, THIS?

.....

BUT IT'S JUST FOR STYLE.

VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM

?!

RMB F

RMB L

RMB L

I WANT MY CAR.

YOU BETTER BE LEGIT.

I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

WHP

カチャ CLICK

.....
THIS APARTMENT COMPLEX USED TO BE A HOTEL, YOU KNOW.
HARLEY

YIKES. KINDA CREEPY.

COME ON.

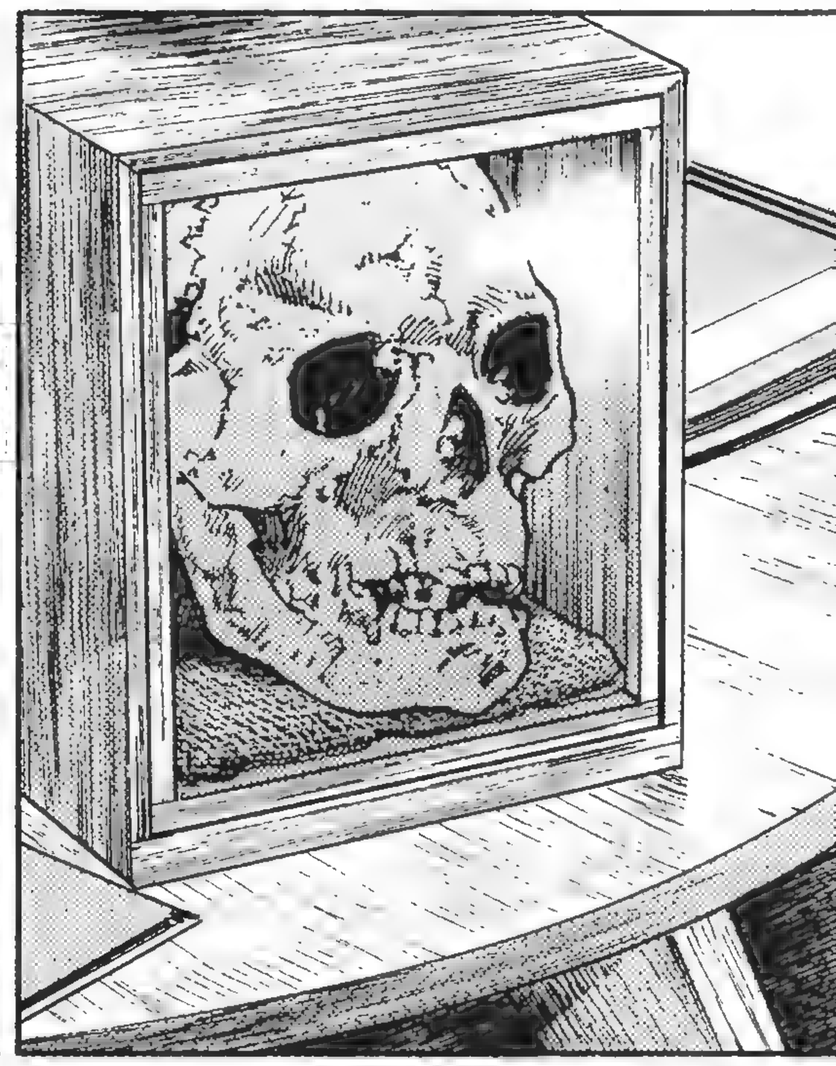
MY LAB IS ON THE TOP FLOOR.

ARE YOU RENTING THIS PLACE?

NO, IT WAS FOR SALE. MY FATHER BOUGHT IT FOR ME.

WOW. YOU REALLY *ARE* A RICH KID.

KA-CHK



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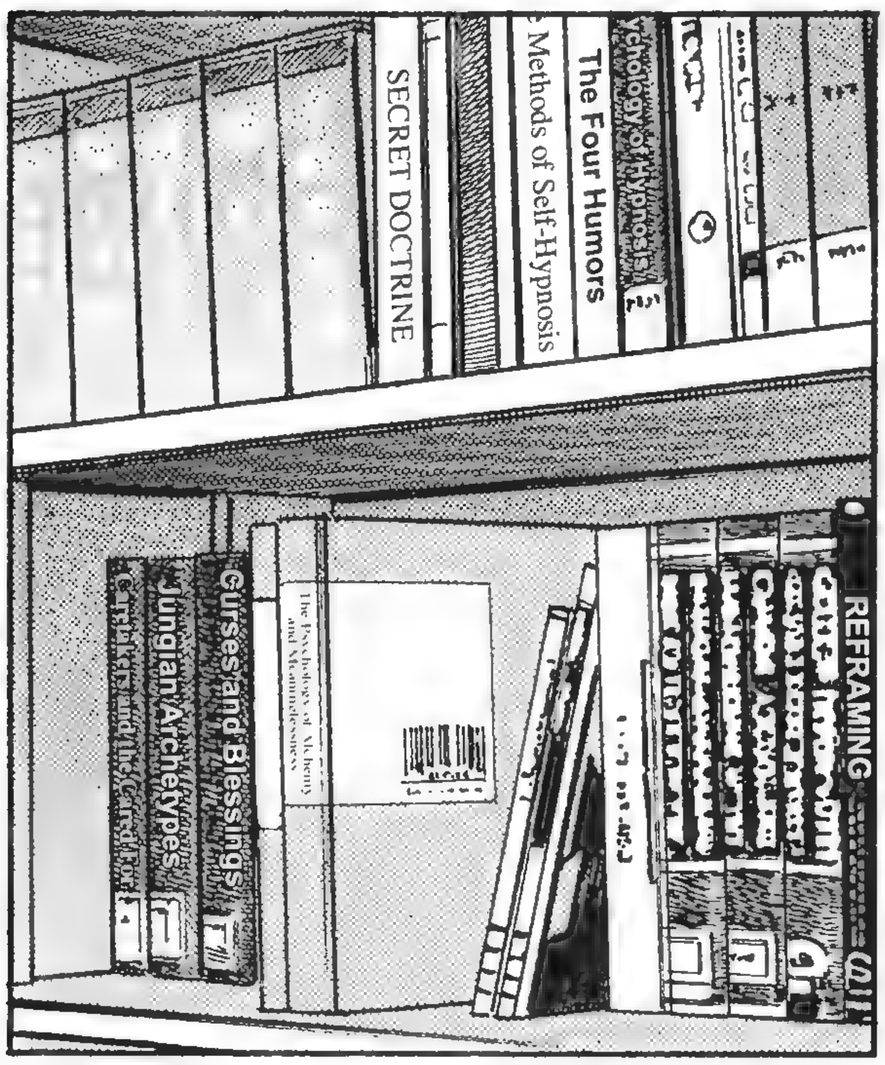
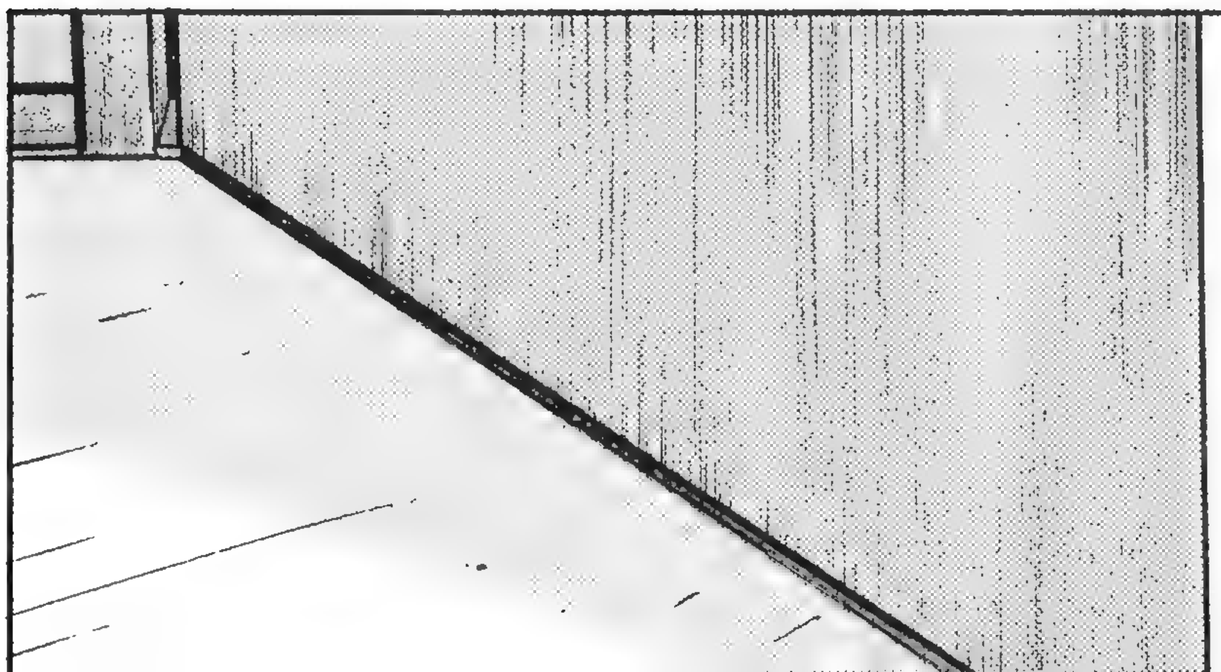

REFRAMING
SECRET DOCTRINE
The Four Humors
Methods of Self-Hypnosis
Curses and Blessings
Jungian Archetypes



WE'LL DO IT IN THIS ROOM.
ガチャ GA-CHK

GULP...

ALL RIGHT. CHANGE INTO THIS, PLEASE.

SURE...

AMANDA

I'LL GIVE YOU AN ANESTHETIC, SO YOU WON'T FEEL ANY PAIN...

BUT I'LL BE USING A DRILL TO OPEN THE HOLE, SO THERE WILL BE SOME... HOW TO PUT IT... *VIBRATION.* IT'LL BE EXTREMELY LOUD. BUT, WHATEVER YOU DO, ***DON'T MOVE.***

THE SURGERY SHOULD BE OVER IN ABOUT FORTY MINUTES.

WE WOULDN'T WANT TO PUNCTURE YOUR CEREBRAL MEMBRANE.

ANY QUESTIONS FIRST?

I'VE PREPPED THE ANES-THETIC.

YOU'RE SURE THIS IS SAFE, RIGHT? *TOTALLY* SURE?

UNLIKE LOBOTOMIES AND BRAIN SURGERY, TREPANATION ONLY PENETRATES AS FAR AS THE SKULL, NOT THROUGH TO THE INTERIOR OF THE BRAIN.

AS I SAID THE OTHER DAY...

THERE'S EVEN AN ORGANIZATION IN THE NETHERLANDS CALLED ITAG THAT ADVOCATES FOR TREPANATION.

AND PERFORMED ABROAD IN MODERN TIMES.

THIS SURGERY HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD...

SOME PEOPLE DRILL HOLES IN THEIR *OWN* SKULLS...

WHILE OTHERS HAVE FRIENDS DO IT FOR THEM.

!

BUT LET ME GUESS...YOU HAVE ZERO PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.

YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE THE PROCEDURE DONE BY A DOCTOR'S SON.

I COULD PASS A MEDICAL CERTIFICATION EXAM BY THE TIME I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL.

TO BE COMPLETELY FRANK, THE AVERAGE DOCTOR'S SKILLS PALE IN COMPARISON TO MY OWN.

REST ASSURED, YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS.

DO IT.

...KRP

IN THAT CASE, PLEASE EXCUSE ME WHILE I PUT THIS CLOTH OVER YOU.

HAS THE ANESTHETIC TAKEN EFFECT YET?

TAP

TAP

YEAH.

FWP

FIRST, I'M GOING TO CUT A SEMICIRCLE INTO YOUR SCALP WITH A SCALPEL.

ここから頭皮に半円状に
メスを入れます。

ART

DR-B

.....

♪ HMM HM HMM... HM- HMM! ♫

HEY.

NOW I'M GOING TO USE THE DRILL TO OPEN THE HOLE.

KLATTA

ALL RIGHTY.

カラン CLANK

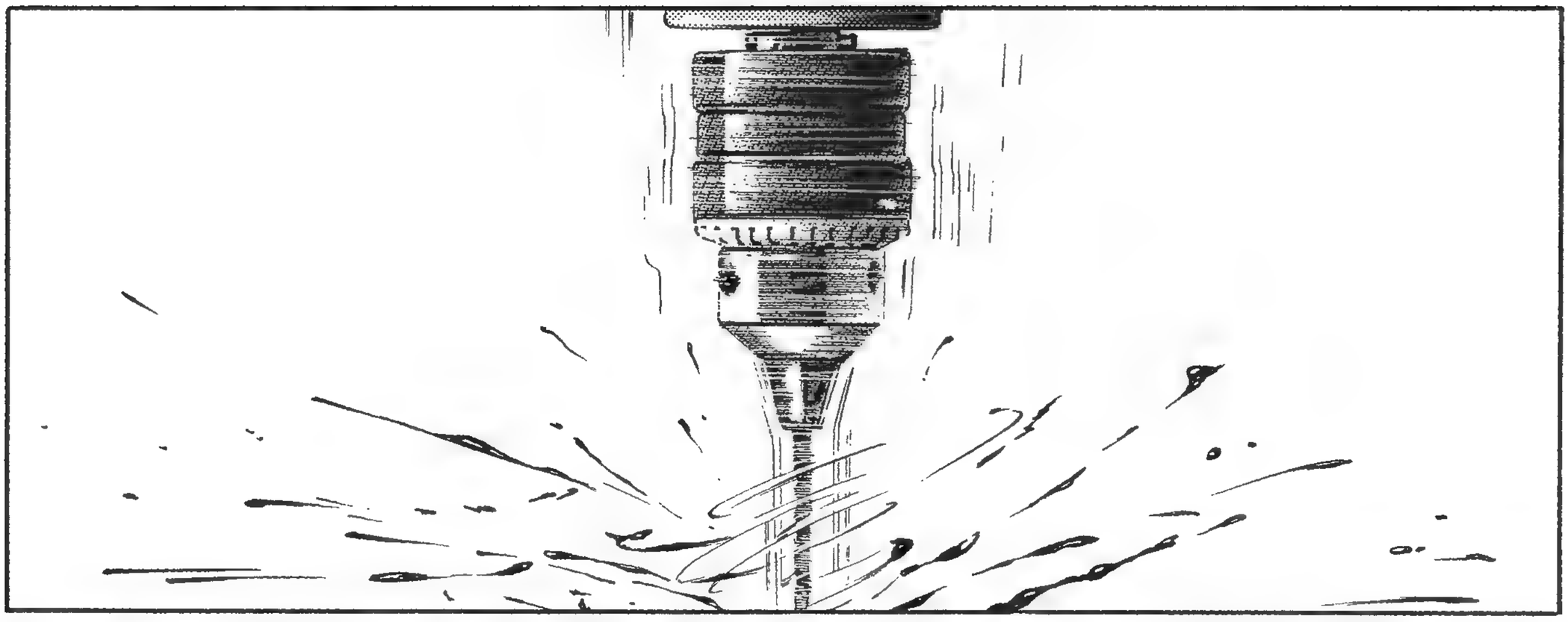
IF YOU ONLY SCREW UP *HALFWAY* AND I END UP BRAINDEAD OR IN SOME KIND OF VEGETATIVE STATE, THEN JUST...KILL ME. OKAY?

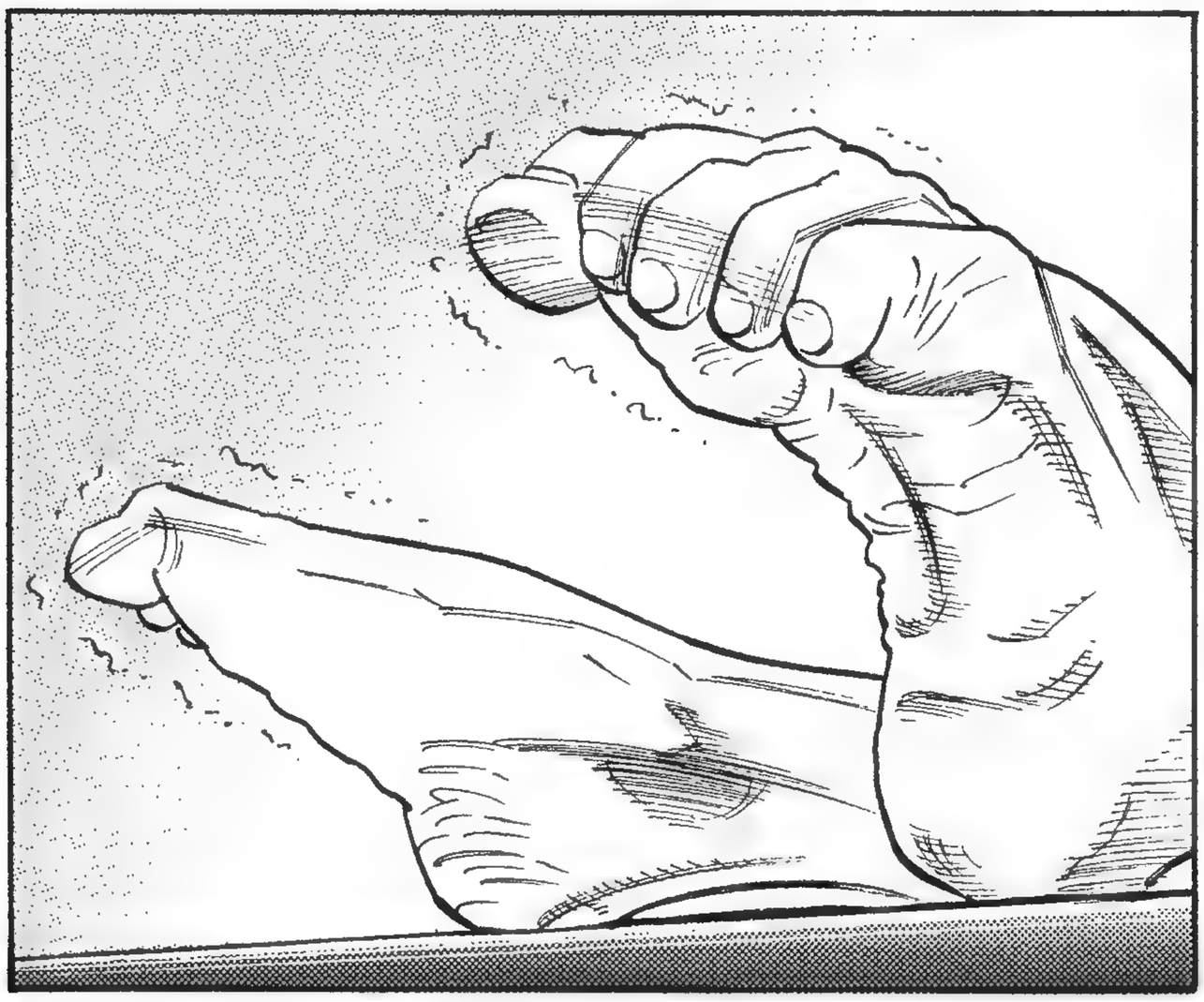
IF YOU SCREW UP AND I WIND UP DEAD, FINE. BUT...

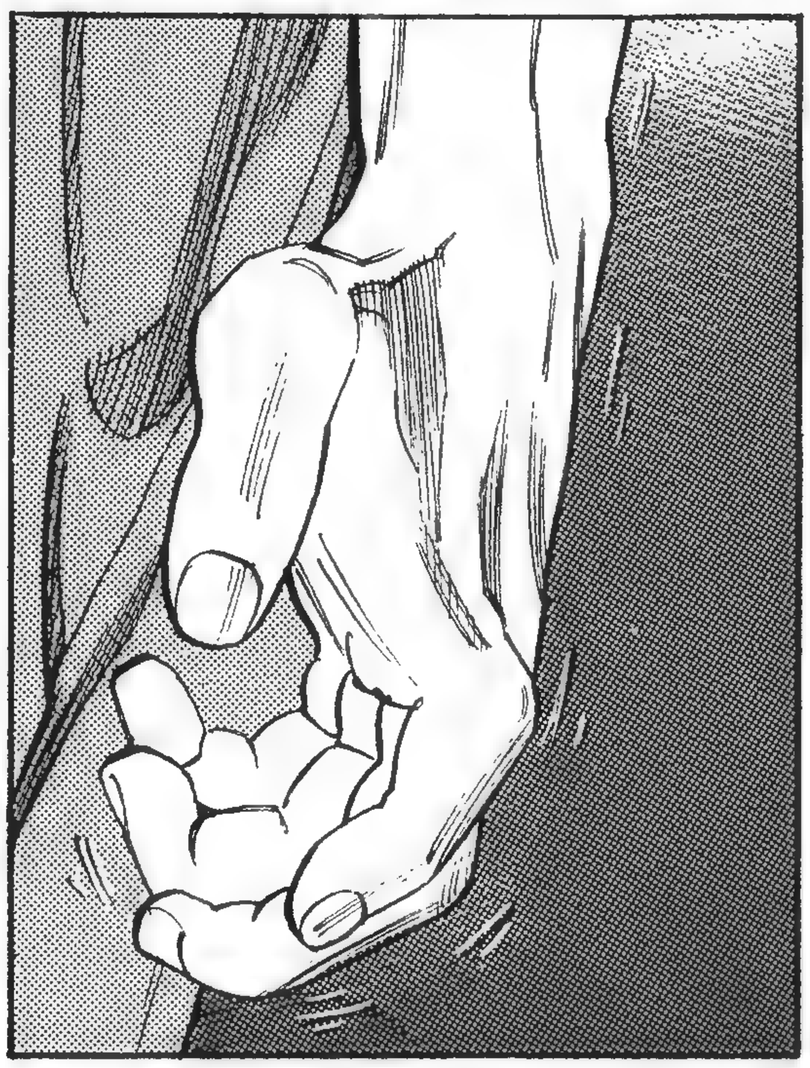
YES?

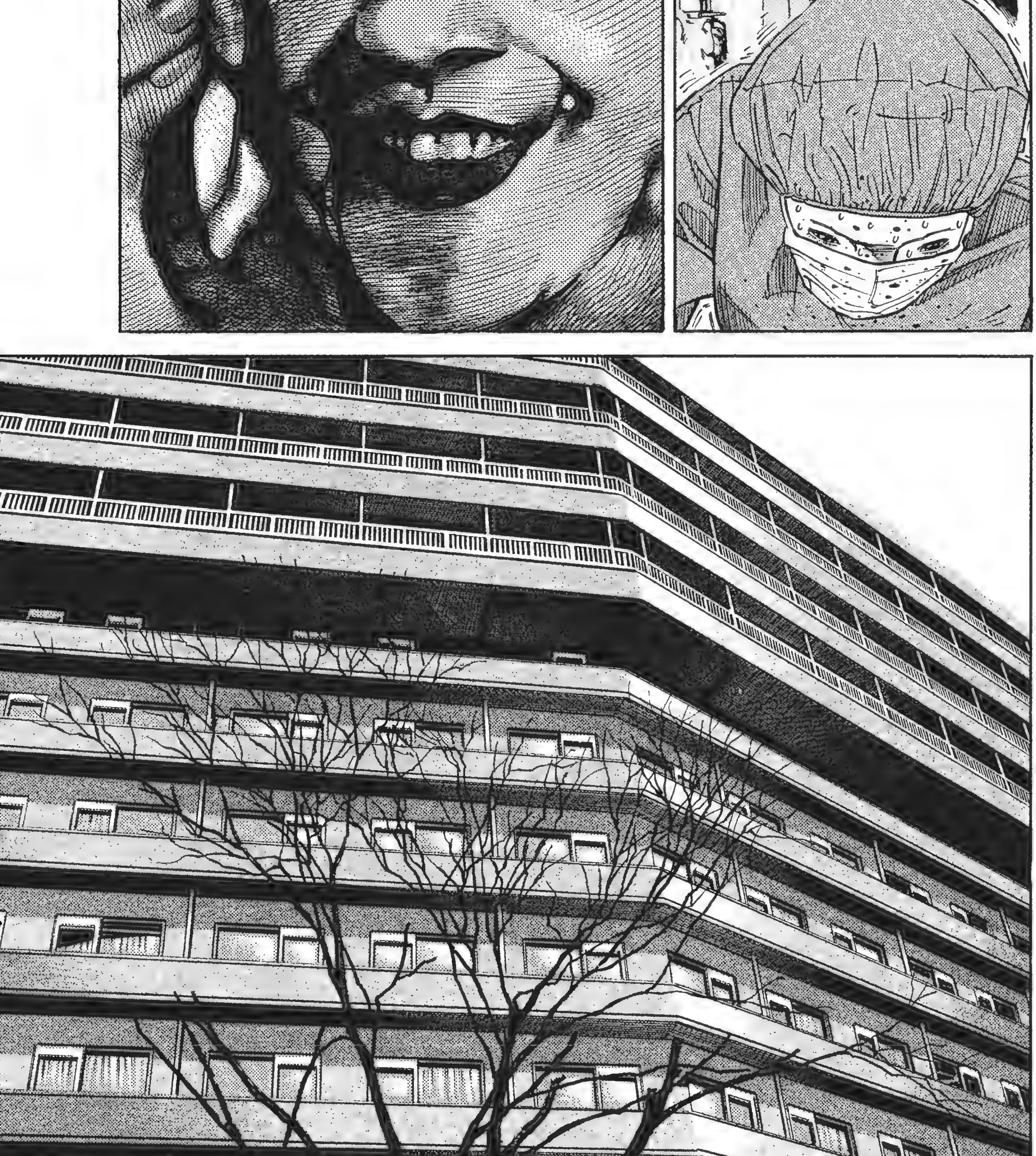
FAIR ENOUGH.

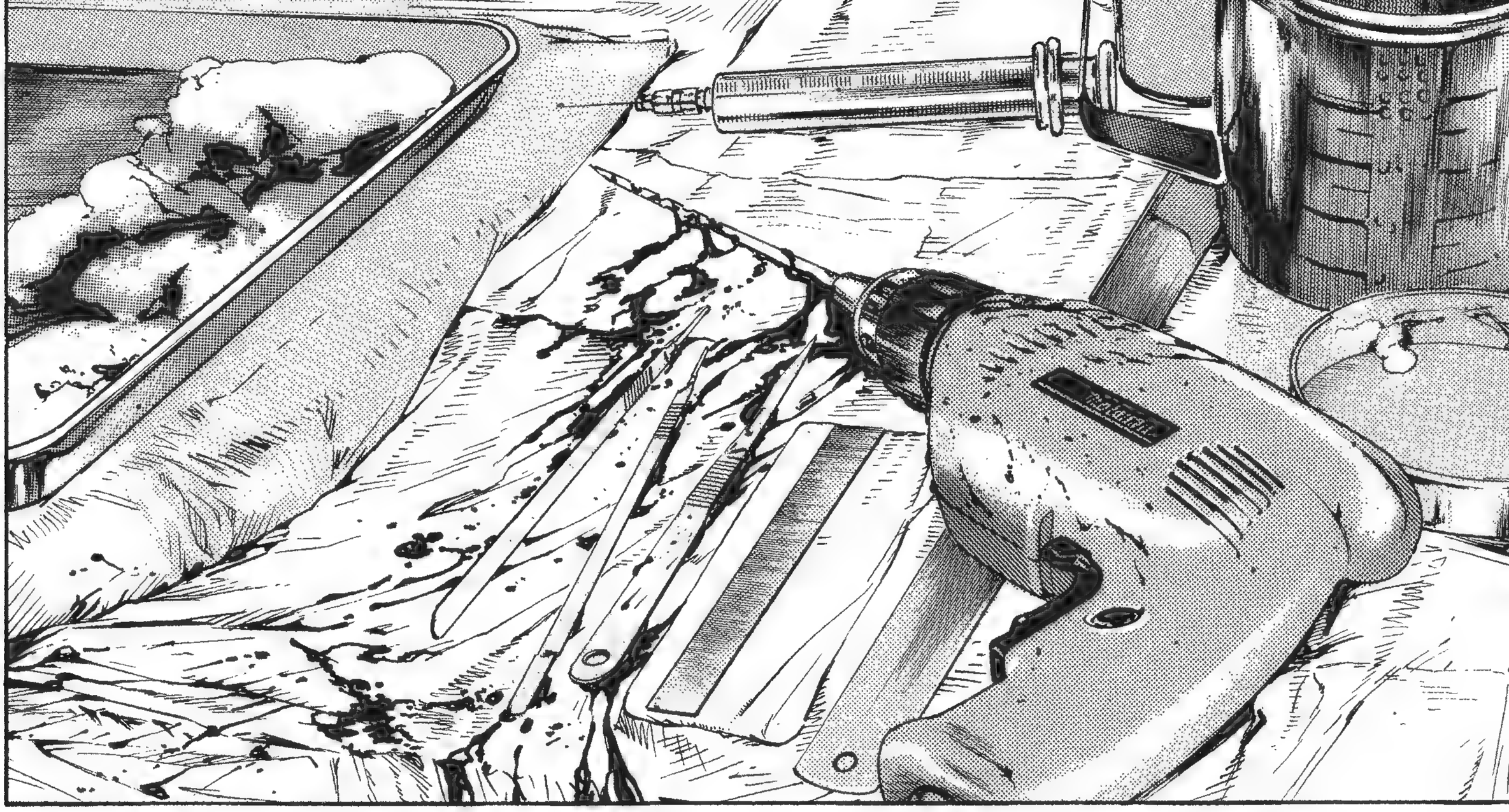
VHRRR











……

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

NOT AS BAD AS YOU THOUGHT, RIGHT?

THE RADIUS IS ABOUT THREE MILLIME-TERS.

THERE CER-TAINLY IS.

POKE

OW …!!

IS THERE REALLY A HOLE IN MY SKULL RIGHT NOW?

IT SHOULD START WORKING RIGHT AWAY.

HERE. TAKE A PAINKILLER, JUST TO BE SAFE.

.....

AH, RIGHT. ONCE THE ANESTHETIC WEARS OFF, YOU MAY START TO FEEL SOME *SLIGHT* PAIN.

GULP

NOW THEN...

HOW *ARE* YOU FEELING?

LIKE...

SNAP

!

DO YOU THINK YOU'VE DEVELOPED ANY CHANGES? ANYTHING NEW?

A SIXTH SENSE, PERHAPS?

.....

.....!

I'M ASKING THIS FROM A PLACE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, NOT OUT OF SOME OBSESSION WITH THE OCCULT.

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

AS IF. WHEN PIGS FLY, MAYBE.

SIXTH SENSE?

BUT THIRTY-SIX PERCENT OF PEOPLE WHO UNDERGO THIS PROCEDURE OVERSEAS *DO* REPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SIXTH SENSE.

OF COURSE, THERE ARE PLENTY OF CASES IN WHICH NO CHANGES OCCUR...

CLAIR-VOY-ANCE...

DIVINA-TION...

SPIRI-TUAL AWAKEN-ING...

TELE-PATHY...

SEEING GHOSTS ...

!

.....

OF COURSE, SOME CLAIMS ARE EXTREMELY FISHY. LEVITATING DURING MEDITATION COMES TO MIND. BUT STILL!

WHY WOULD OPENING A HOLE IN YOUR SKULL BE ENOUGH TO CAUSE THAT TO HAPPEN?

LET'S SAY THIS WHOLE SIXTH SENSE THING REALLY *DOES* EXIST.

BUT FROM WHAT I KNOW AT THIS STAGE...

I DON'T HAVE ANY FIRM HYPOTH-ESES...

WE HUMANS ARE ACTUALLY BORN WITH GAPS IN OUR SKULLS CALLED FONTANELLES, OR SOFT SPOTS.

BY THE TIME WE'RE ADULTS, A THICK WALL OF BONE SQUEEZES OUR BRAINS.

EACH GAP IN THAT SOFT, JUVENILE BONE GRADUALLY DISAPPEARS AS THE BABY GETS OLDER.

THEY TAKE EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO TOTALLY CLOSE.

!

THEY SAY ADULTS CAN BE "THICK-HEADED" SOMETIMES, RIGHT? WELL, THAT'S TRUE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

SUPPOSEDLY, THIS RESTORES THE BRAIN TO THE **ACTIVE STATE** IT WAS IN DURING INFANCY.

RELIEVES THAT PRESSURE...

AND ALLOWS FOR GREATER BLOOD FLOW TO THE BRAIN.

THE THEORY GOES THAT DRILLING A HOLE IN THE TIGHTLY WOUND SKULL OF AN ADULT *HOMO SAPIEN*...

THAT'S THE GIST!

BUT WE CAN KICK THEM INTO HIGH GEAR BY INCREASING BLOOD FLOW?

IN OTHER WORDS, WE ADULTS DON'T USE ALL OF OUR BRAINS...

IN ESSENCE, NAKOSHI-SAN, RIGHT NOW...

YOUR BRAIN IS IN THE SAME STATE IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE A BABY. ACTIVE ALL OVER.

!

PRE-CISELY!

LIKE HOW NINETY PERCENT OF THE HUMAN BRAIN ISN'T BEING USED OR SOMETHING?

THAT KIND OF THING?

SNAP

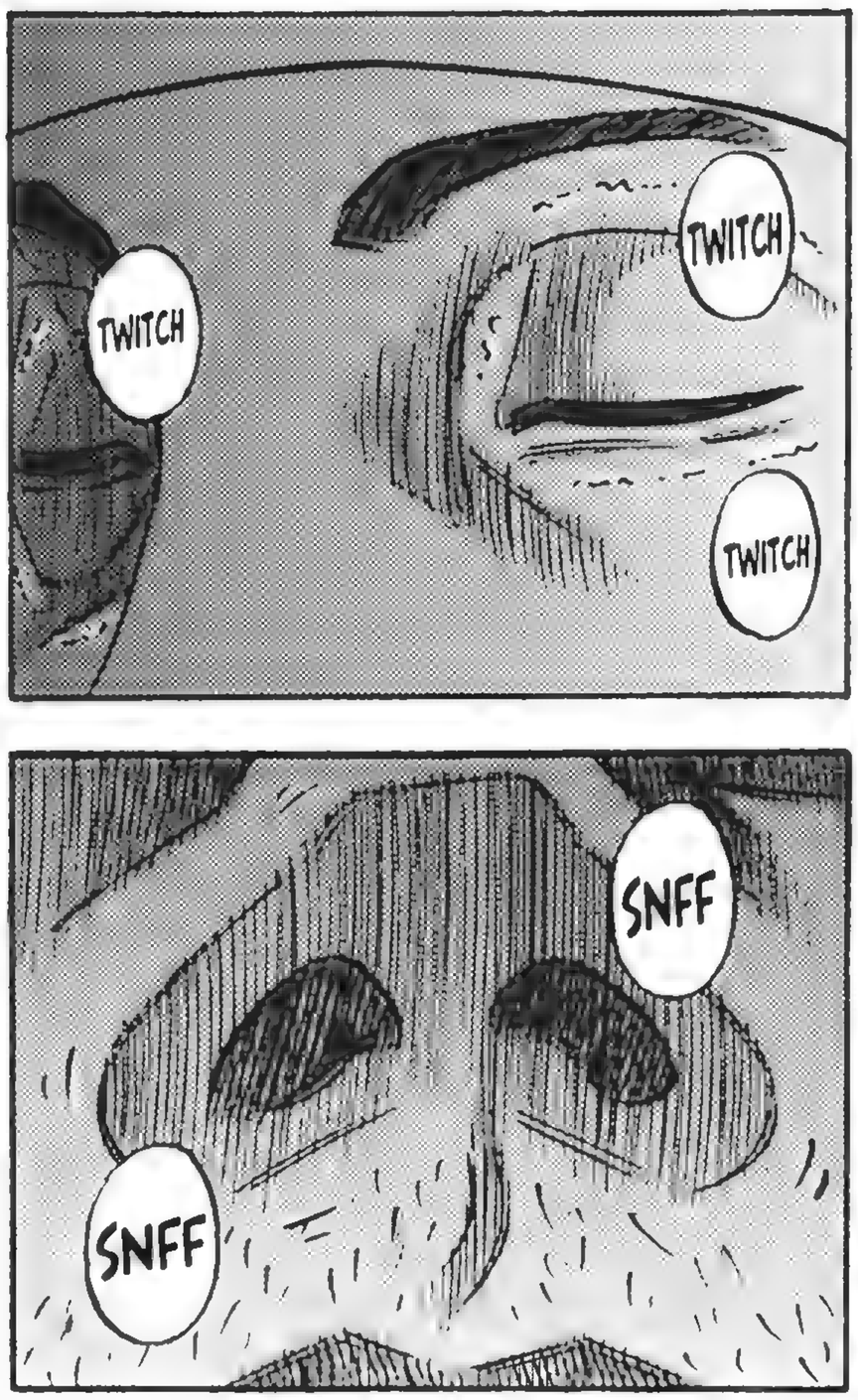
SO, IT'S...

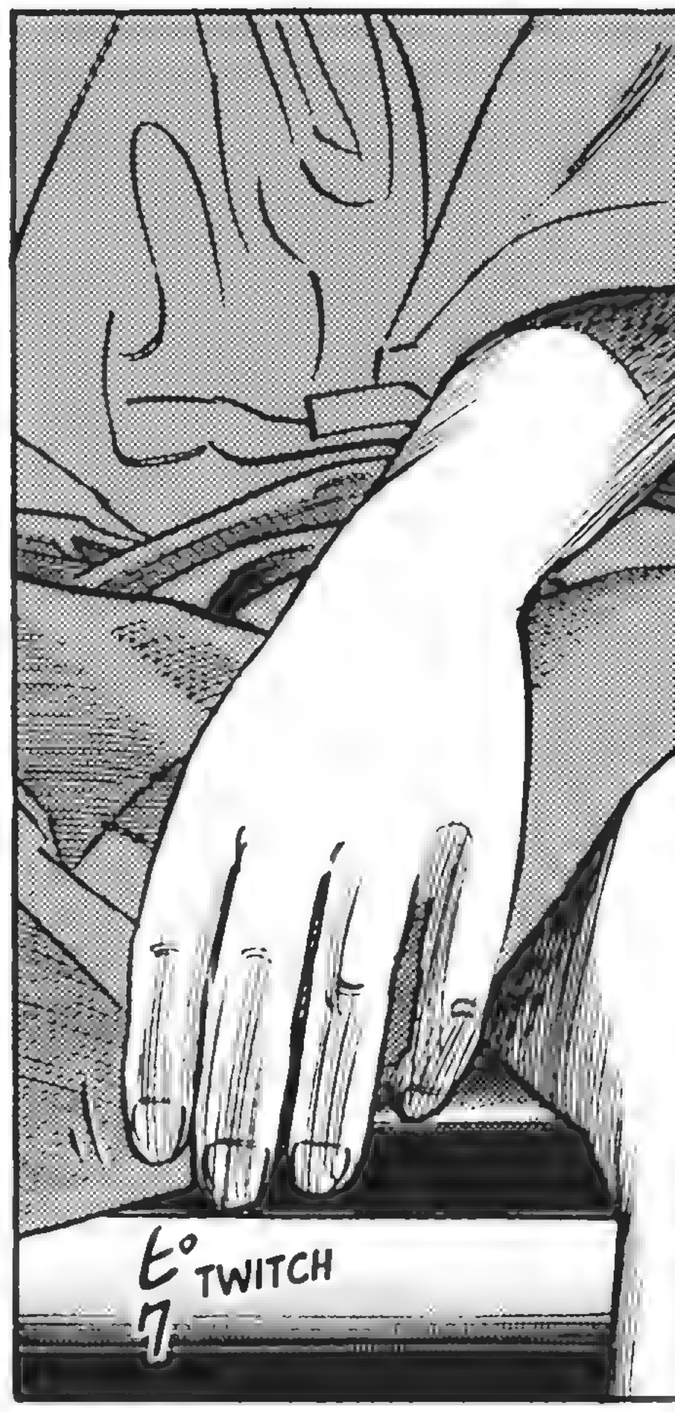
SHUT

SUU

.....!

.....


TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
SNFF
SNFF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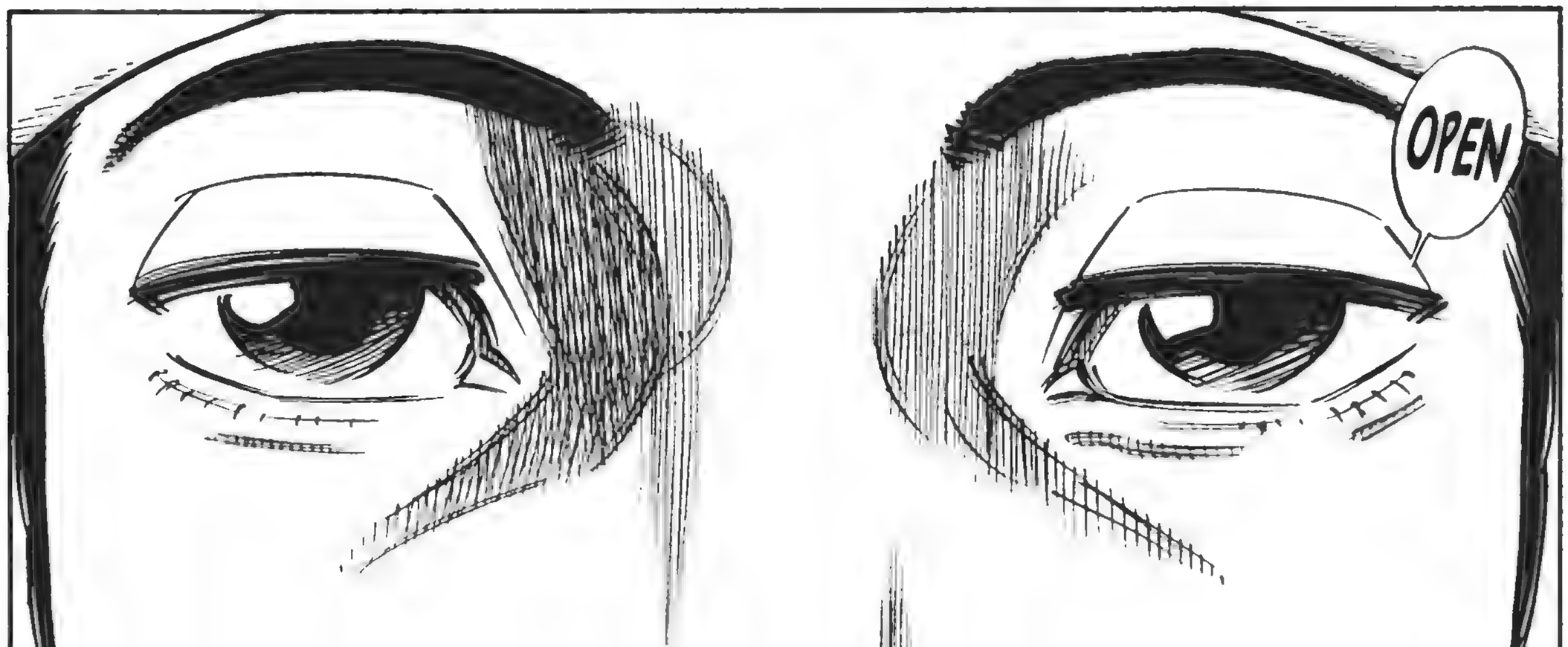

OPEN

GLANCE

GLANCE

.....?

DO YOU FEEL SOME-THING?

THIS ROOM...

WHAT ?!

DID SOME-BODY DIE HERE?

I'LL LOOK INTO THIS ROOM'S HISTORY, SEE WHAT I CAN FIND.

ALREADY ...?

HANGING?

SUICIDE. A...

IT WASN'T MURDER. IT WAS...

WHAP

!!

NO NEED. I CAN SEE THEM NOW... DANGLING... *RIIIGHT* ABOVE YOU.

……

"SLIP"
スルッ

"THUMP"
ドテ

IS IT A MAN...?

A WOMAN ...?

OH.

.....

ポン
PAFF

ポン
PAFF

TUG
TUG

IF YOU'RE THAT EASY TO SPOOK.

I'M SURPRISED YOU'D DO AN EXPERIMENT LIKE THIS...

DON'T MESS WITH ME LIKE THAT!

SHF

WHATEVER.

SO. WHILE SOME PEOPLE DO NOTICE CHANGES RIGHT AWAY, OTHER CASES HAVE TAKEN UP TO A MONTH TO MANIFEST.

WE HAVE TEN DAYS. LET'S TAKE OUR TIME WITH THIS.

!

HERE'S THAT THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND I PROMISED. YOU GET THE REST WHEN THE EXPERIMENT IS OVER.

YOU GOT IT.

LET'S MAKE THESE TEN DAYS COUNT, SHALL WE?

SURE.

I SHOULD BE BACK WITHIN THE HOUR. TRY TO GET SOME REST, ALL RIGHT?

I'M GOING TO HEAD DOWN TO THE SHINJUKU POLICE STATION TO PICK UP YOUR CAR.

I DON'T FEEL A THING.

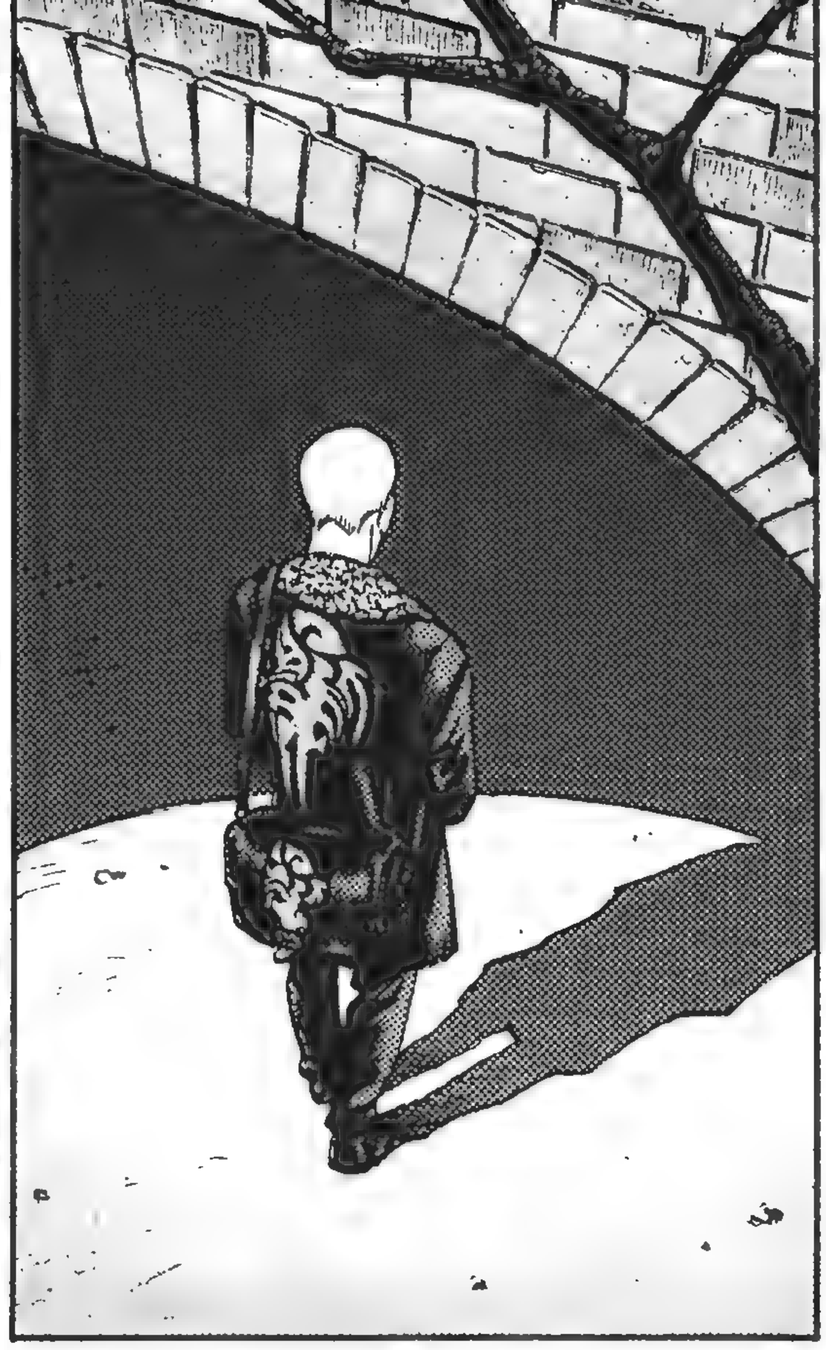
THOSE MEDS YOU GAVE ME DID THE TRICK.

BEFORE I GO, HOW'S YOUR PAIN?

OH, RIGHT.

GOOD TO HEAR. IN THAT CASE, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

BA-TNK



GLANCE...

.....

SCT

SHF

WHRR

WHRR

ガラッ
RATTA

ガラッ
RATTA

……

FUCK

SEX

!

SHF

NOT THE MOST CREATIVE FALL FROM GRACE, BUT GOOD TRY, KID.

RSTL

.....!

A REPORT ON A TREPANATION OPERATION

The Clinical and the Pathological

A REPORT C

TREPANATION OP

A POST-OPERATIVE REPORT?

TREPANATION...

Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery, Cook County Chicago (USA)

to research the history of this ancient practice from earliest to modern times to uncover people's [illegible] and stimulate their interest in the ancient practice of trepanation

to act in an advisory capacity for those who have a serious desire to get trepanned by patching them in the direction of a competent [illegible]

to carry out research to test the hypothesis that the effect of trepanation

JENNIFER CATHERINE... TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD.

SHE KILLED HER-SELF?!

AND HAD A MENTAL BREAK-DOWN.

TWENTY-THREE DAYS LATER...

TWO HOURS AND TWENTY-SEVEN MINUTES AFTER THE SURGERY...

SHE STARTED SEEING GHOSTS ...

.....

NO CHANGE.

How Your Memory Lies

ILLNESS OF THE HEART

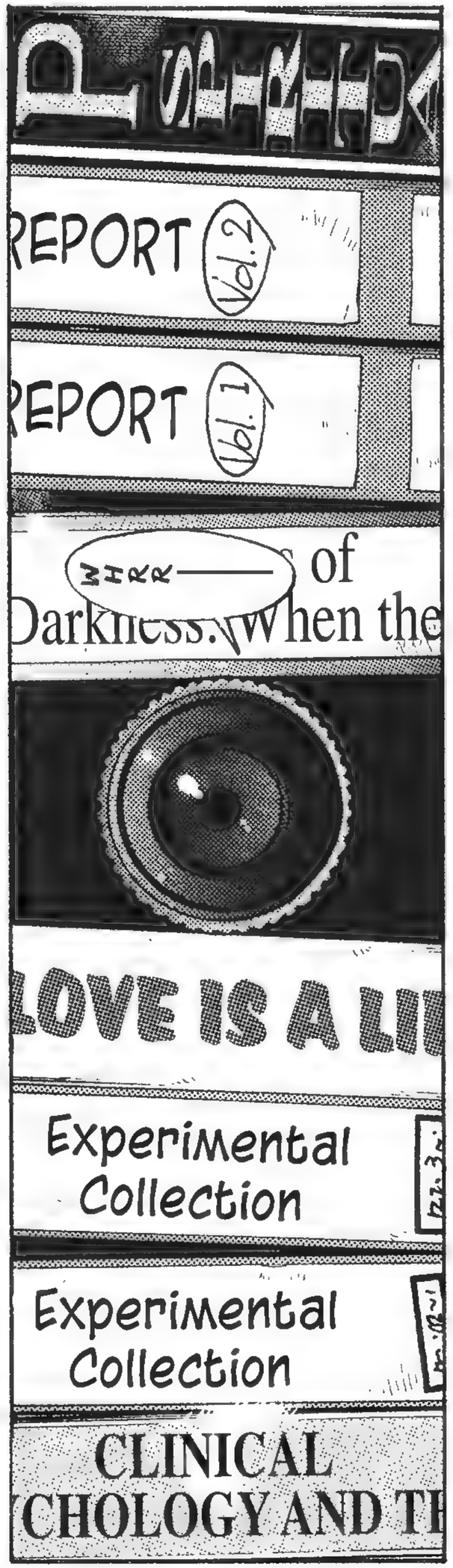
NO CHANGE.

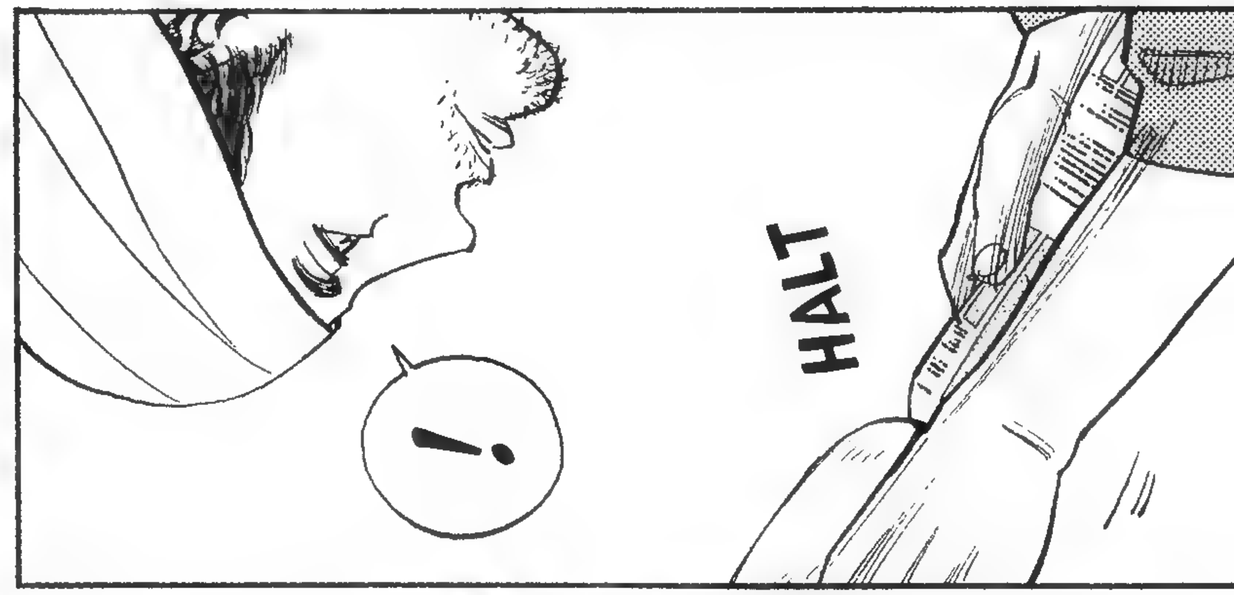
DARRYL MARTIN.

NO CHANGE...

FLIP

SECRET
A REPORT ON A TREPANATION OPERATION


REPORT Vol.2
REPORT Vol.1
of
Darkness. When the
LOVE IS A LI
Experimental Collection
Experimental Collection
CLINICAL
CHOLOGY AND TH


!
HALT

GILBERT MACAULAY.
GAINED THE POWER OF TELEPATHY.

FIFTY-TWO DAYS LATER...

HE WAS ADMITTED TO A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL FOR DELUSIONS AND HALLUCINA-TIONS.

.....

?!

……

TUG

YEAH, RIGHT. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT CRAP FOR A *SECOND.*

HEH.

P.M. 11"

A REPORT ON A TREPANATION PROCEDURE

SECRET

Desirous of
kness. W
Whe
to sno

REC 1:30:24

CHK

FWP

.....?

REEEEEEEEE

ALL RIGHT.

SHE'S ALL GOOD.

VROOM

YOU CAN TELL THAT...

JUST BY THE SOUND IT'S MAKING?

.....

RMB

RMB

RMB

YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO TRICK ME AGAIN, AREN'T...

SURE.

THERE'S THE SMELL...

THE WAY IT SHAKES ...

NOT *JUST* THE SOUND.

ALL THOSE THINGS COME TOGETHER TO FORM A CERTAIN VIBE.

!

.....?

SNIFF SNIFF

?

?

SNIFF

SNIFF

SHF

STARE

STARE

UM...

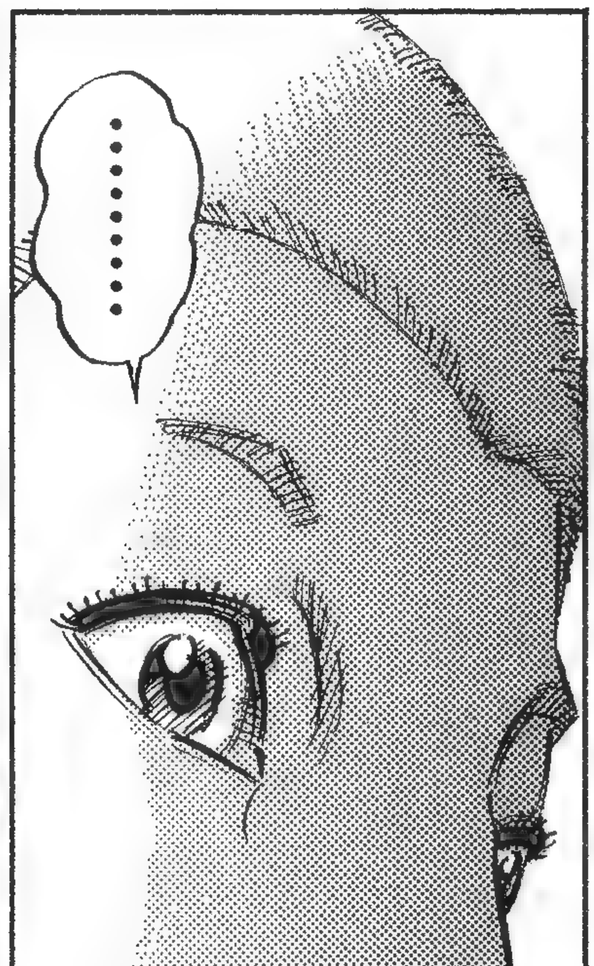
UH...

HALT

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

!!!

YOU TOUCHED MY SHIT, DIDN'T YOU? MY BAG, THE FLOOR MAT, THE SUN VISOR... YOU **MOVED** THEM.



AH!

.....?!

AS LONG AS YOU HAVEN'T PLANTED MORE OF THOSE HIDDEN CAMERAS IN HERE. OR ANY OTHER WEIRD SHIT, FOR THAT MATTER.

WELL... LET'S JUST SAY YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE HERE WITH TRUST ISSUES.

.....

Day 1	Surgery	
Day 2	Supernatural Vision Test	1. Ghost tunnel 2. Haunted hospital 3. Murder apartment
Day 3	ESP Test	1. ESP cards 2. Clairvoyance (color, shape, content of letters in envelopes) 3. Telepathy 4. Dowsing
Day 4	Psychokinesis Test	1. Bending spoons 2. Spirit photography (Polaroid camera) 3. Telekinesis (balance paper on nail, move with mind)
Day 5	Psychometry Test	1. Intuit owner of wallet by touching coins 2. Intuit past events by touching photo 3. Intuit a person's past by hearing their voice on recording
Day 6	Retrocognition Test	1. Interview randomly chosen, normal individual 2. Interview a patient at a psychiatric hospital 3. Interview an inmate at a prison

F
W
P

Telepathy
Dowsing
Bending spoo
pirit phot

.....

WE MAY NEED TO PLAY THINGS BY EAR SOMEWHAT, BUT HERE'S THE SCHEDULE.

TPK

BA-TNK

I'LL COVER THE GAS MONEY FOR THE TRIP, SO LET'S TAKE YOUR CAR.

MIGHT AS WELL DIVE RIGHT IN. I'VE GOT A FEW PURPORTEDLY HAUNTED SPOTS TO CHECK OUT WITH YOU TODAY.

SNAP

WHAT ?!

GET YOUR OWN RIDE.

BESIDES, I DON'T TRUST YOU AS FAR AS I CAN THROW YOU.

.....

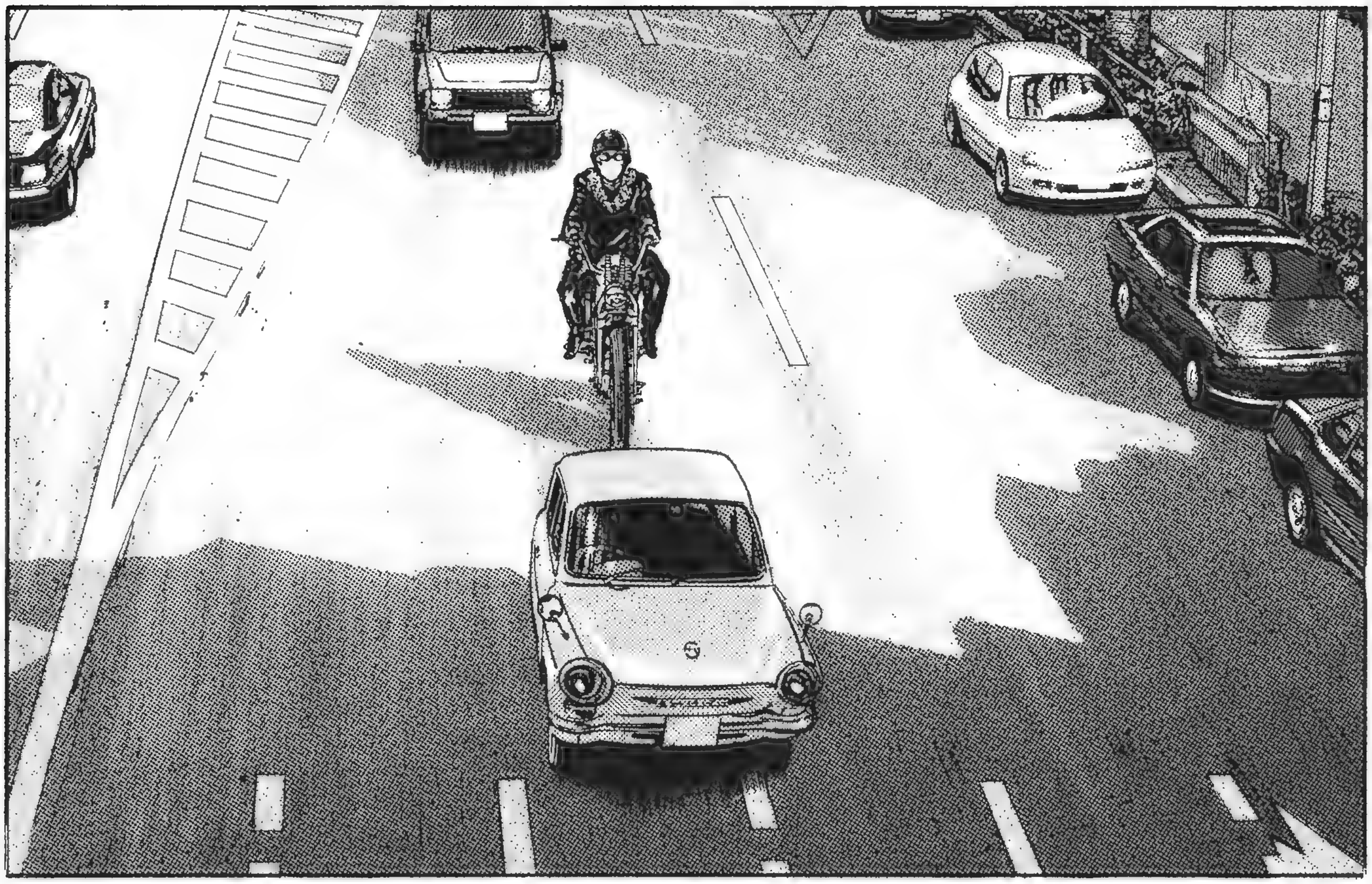
GO IN YOUR OWN CAR. I'LL FOLLOW YOU.

I GENERALLY MAKE A POINT OF NEVER LETTING OTHER PEOPLE RIDE IN MINE.

IT'S *HUMANITY.*

YOU KNOW FULL WELL IT'S NOT ME YOU DISTRUST...

HMPH.



.....

THIS TUNNEL IS PRETTY FAMOUSLY HAUNTED.

FEEL SOME-THING?

D...DO YOU...

.....

I GOTTA ADMIT, IT *IS* CREEPY.

WOULDN'T *ANYONE* FIND THIS PLACE SPOOKY?

I DON'T REALLY NEED TO.

SUPPOSEDLY THESE PHENOMENA HAVE CAUSED A STRING OF ACCIDENTS IN THE AREA. THEY STILL HAPPEN TO THIS DAY, IN FACT.

THERE USED TO BE A CREMATORIUM ON TOP OF THIS TUNNEL. THEY SAY ALL MANNER OF STRANGE, PARANORMAL THINGS HAPPEN HERE.

.....

SO... LET'S GO IN, SHALL WE?

KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK

ドドド

.....

GO ON! YOU'RE COMPLETELY SAFE!

DON'T WORRY! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I'LL BE RIGHT HERE KEEPING WATCH!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT IS THIS, SOME KINDA JUVENILE HAZING CRAP?

CHRIST.

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

!!

BYUUN

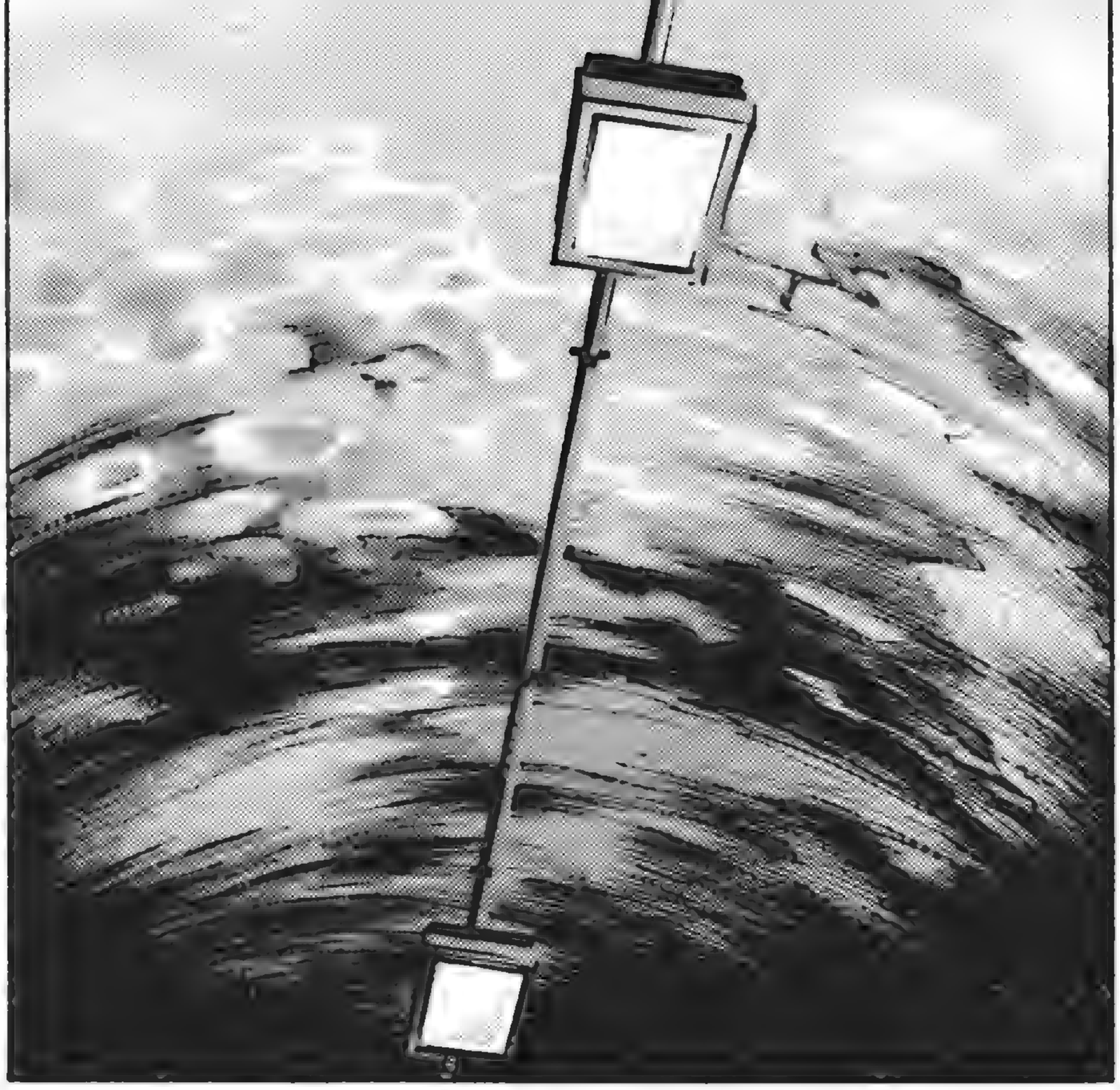
Wall: Nightingale

.....

IF THERE *ARE* GHOSTS, THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL SEE THEM!

YOU SHOULD BE DIRECTLY UNDER THE CREMATORIUM'S FORMER LOCATION RIGHT NOW!

SO? DO YOU FEEL ANYTHING?



NOT A THING.

2. Haunted hospital

.....

!!!

YOU'D BETTER BE COMING WITH ME.

HUH?!

YEAAAH, NO WAY IN HELL I'M GOING IN *THERE* ALONE.

UMMM ...

.....

OTHER-WISE, I'M STAYING *RIGHT HERE.*

PERHAPS WE CAN REVISIT THIS ONE TOMORROW AFTERNOON, WHEN IT'S LIGHT OUT.

3B-19

IT HAS ITS OWN BATH AND EVERYTHING. ONLY TWENTY THOUSAND A MONTH.

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT OR EXTRA FEES REQUIRED.

WHY SO LOW?

THIS ONE'S PRETTY OBSCURE. NOT MANY PEOPLE EVEN KNOW IT EXISTS.

Okubo Station

Shed

Genkan

Bedroom

K

Main Room:
6 Tatami

Room 201
17.80 ㎡

N

Rent	
Name	
Room Number	
Rent	
Maintenance	
Extra Fees	
Term	
Transport	JR
Address	Shinjiku
Structure	RC
Area	Approximat
Date of Build	Showa Era
Current Status	Available
Amenities	Air conditionin gas stove

〒102-007. 新宿区高田馬場

TWO ILLEGAL CHINESE IMMIGRANTS LIVED HERE. THEY BOTH WORKED AS HOSTESSES IN A CLUB...UNTIL THEY GOT CHOPPED INTO BITS WITH A TRADITIONAL CHINESE SWORD.

THE EVENTS HAVEN'T BEEN MADE PUBLIC, SO BARELY ANYONE'S INVESTIGATED THIS PLACE.

THERE WAS A MURDER.

THE LANDLORD LENT ME ONE WHEN HE LET ME CHECK OUT THE ROOM, SO I MADE A COPY OF IT.

GA-CHAK

HEH HEH.

WHERE THE HELL'D YOU GET A KEY?

TA-DA!

I'LL WAIT RIGHT H...

SHF

LEAN

ALL RIGHT, GO ON IN.

KRIIII

!!

!!

SHOVE

WHUH ?!

THWD

WAH ...!

PA !!!

!

CREAK

PCHK

SEE ANY DEAD GIRLS?

IF YOU'RE THIS SPOOKED, MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE SIXTH SENSE. WHATCHA THINK?

SO NOT COOL, MAN!

DUDE!

.....

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

H...

HOW COULD YOU TELL?!

THAT'S THE SPOT.

!

HALT

!!!

THE STAINS MAKE IT PRETTY OBVIOUS.

HMMM ...

ARE YOU SENSING ANYTHING UNUSUAL...?

A...

IT'S SURPRISINGLY COMMON FOR PATIENTS TO START SEEING GHOSTS AFTER UNDERGOING TREPANATION.

WELL? CAN YOU FEEL ANYTHING? THE VICTIMS' SPIRITS OR...?

SHF

WHA ...?

SHP... SHA...

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

HOW'S IT GOING...?

H...

NOK

NOK

!

ズワ SWF

THAT'S ALL I GOT.

THIS WALL IS MADE OF EMULSION-BASED SYNTHETIC RESIN AND CEDAR PLYWOOD. JUDGING BY HOW WELL I CAN HEAR THE NEXT ROOM, I'D GUESS IT'S ABOUT THIRTY MILLIMETERS THICK, AND NO GLASS WOOL WAS USED FOR SOUNDPROOFING.

.....

I AM.

NAKO-SHI-SAN...

COULD YOU *PLEASE* TAKE THIS SERI-OUSLY?

SPIRITS, SOULS... EVEN IF ALL THAT CRAP REALLY *DOES* EXIST...

I'M NOT ASKING ABOUT PHYSICAL THINGS LIKE THE WALLS. YOU KNOW THAT.

I CAN'T SEE THEM.

THAT'S ALL I CAN "FEEL" HERE.

WELL, WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?

I'VE NEVER GIVEN MUCH OF A SHIT ABOUT PEOPLE, ANYWAY.

SHF.....

.....

TUG TUG

PULL

YONKŌEN
餃子の店
*Sign: Fresh Hot Gyoza
.....
EVEN *AFTER* I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO GIVE YOUR GRAY MATTER SOME WIGGLE ROOM.
YOU SURE ARE A THICK-HEADED GUY, NAKOSHI-SAN.
SLUURP
?!
I DON'T ACTUALLY BELIEVE IN THE PARANORMAL. AT LEAST, I DON'T WANT TO.
LET ME BE FRANK.
KTNK

IT'S A REAL THORN IN MY SIDE, Y'KNOW?

AS A SKEPTIC WITH A SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND, EVEN THE *SLIGHTEST* POSSIBILITY OF THINGS LIKE GHOSTS, A SIXTH SENSE, THE OCCULT, AND SO ON EXISTING...

SOME CORNER OF ME *DOES* BELIEVE IN IT.

YET HERE I AM, SCARED OUT OF MY WITS. THAT'S PROOF THAT, SOME-WHERE...

"THAT'S NOT REAL."

I WANT TO CRUSH ALL THE ANNOYING LITTLE DOUBTS AND WHAT IFS, SO I CAN THRUST OUT MY CHEST AND SAY WITH PRIDE...

I WANT TO DEFINITIVELY PROVE THOSE THINGS **FALSE.**

!

THANKS FOR THE GRUB.

KTNK ゴト

THINK OF IT THIS WAY. BY PRETENDING NOT TO BELIEVE IN IT FOR A WHILE, I GIVE MYSELF SPACE TO GRAPPLE WITH MY DOUBTS...

WHICH, OVER TIME, GIVE WAY TO GENUINE DISBELIEF.

……

ふぅ

TOMORROW, WE'RE GOING TO FOCUS ON ESP-RELATED PHENOMENA.

WE'VE STILL GOT NINE DAYS LEFT.

ANYWAY, IT'S FINE.

RUSTLE

Day 3

ESP Test

A GAME?

WHAT DO YOU SAY? UP FOR A GAME?

HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A SNEAK PEEK OF TOMORROW'S ACTIVITIES?

I ACTUALLY HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME ESP CARDS WITH ME.

OH, RIGHT!

RSTL
RSTL

FIRST, I'LL PUT THESE FACE DOWN IN A RANDOM ORDER, SO YOU CAN'T SEE.

SHP

FOR A TOTAL OF TWENTY-FIVE CARDS.

THERE ARE FIVE TYPES OF CARDS, EACH TYPE HAVING FIVE CARDS EACH...

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.

SHK

SNAP

THERE! NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SELECT ALL THE CARDS WITH STARS ON THEM.

THE CHANCE OF ONE OF YOUR CARDS BEING A STAR IS, OF COURSE, ONE IN FIVE. THE PROBABILITY THAT ALL *FIVE* CARDS WILL BE STARS, HOWEVER, IS LESS THAN ONE IN FIFTY THOUSAND.

YOU PICK FIVE, AND WE SEE HOW YOU DID.

.....

ALL RIGHT.

BUT I NEED YOU TO GRASP THAT THIS IS A TEST OF **INTUITION.**

SORRY, I DON'T MEAN TO NAG...

WAIT JUST ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

.....

HOWEVER, AS WE GET OLDER, WE'RE EXPECTED TO LEARN THROUGH SOLELY CEREBRAL METHODS. ALL THOUGHT, NO FEELINGS.

WHEN WE'RE CHILDREN, WE PROCESS INFORMATION DIFFERENTLY. WE LEARN BY *FEELING* THE WORLD AROUND US.

THE HELL DOES *THAT* MEAN?

RIGHT NOW, NAKOSHI-SAN, YOUR BRAIN'S BEEN RESTORED TO THE STATE IT WAS IN WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD.

JUST RELAX, LET YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS DO THE WORK, AND PICK A CARD AS IF YOU DON'T CARE WHAT YOU GET.

SO DON'T ACTIVELY *THINK* ABOUT THIS AT ALL.

HOLD UP.

FWP

SHF

COOL YOUR JETS FOR A SECOND.

.....

YOU MEAN USE MY LEFT HAND?

?!

NAKOSHI-SAN...

SORT OF. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT INTO WORDS, BUT... TRY *FEELING* WITH THE ENTIRE LEFT HALF OF YOUR BODY.

TRY PICKING IT WITH YOUR LEFT SIDE.

I'D LIKE YOU TO IMAGINE FEELING THESE CARDS USING THE SENSES OF THE **LEFT HALF** OF YOUR BODY. UNDERSTAND?

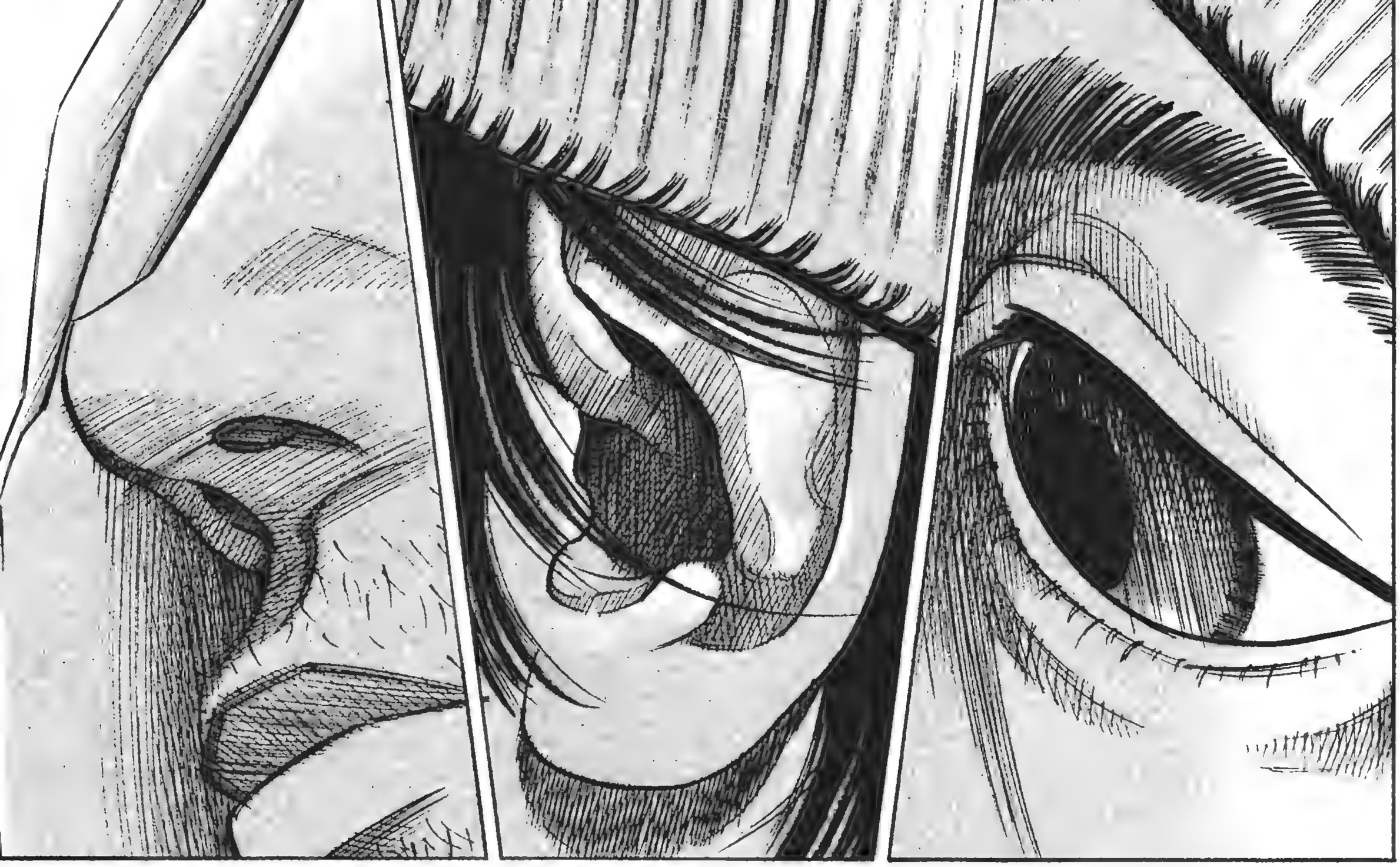
EXACTLY. SIGHT, HEARING, SMELL, TOUCH...

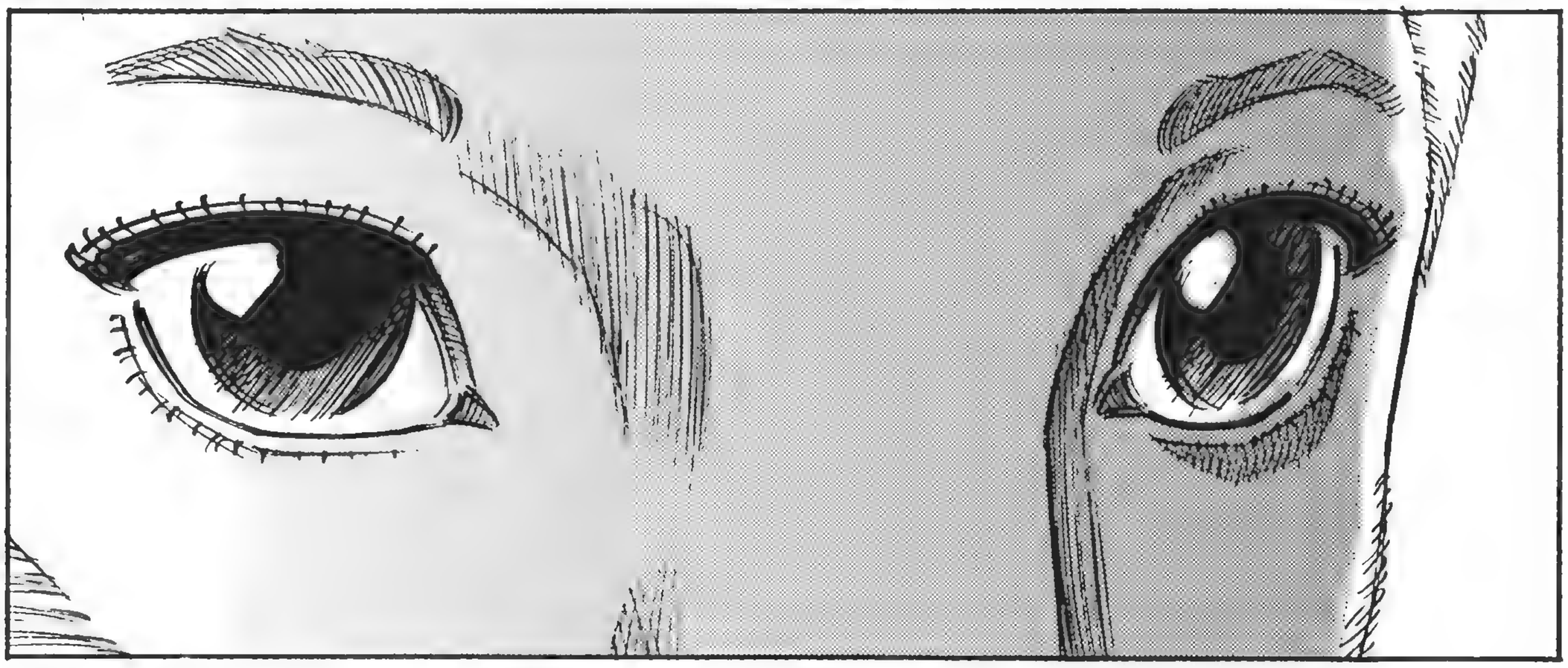
THE LEFT HALF...?

GRIP

.....

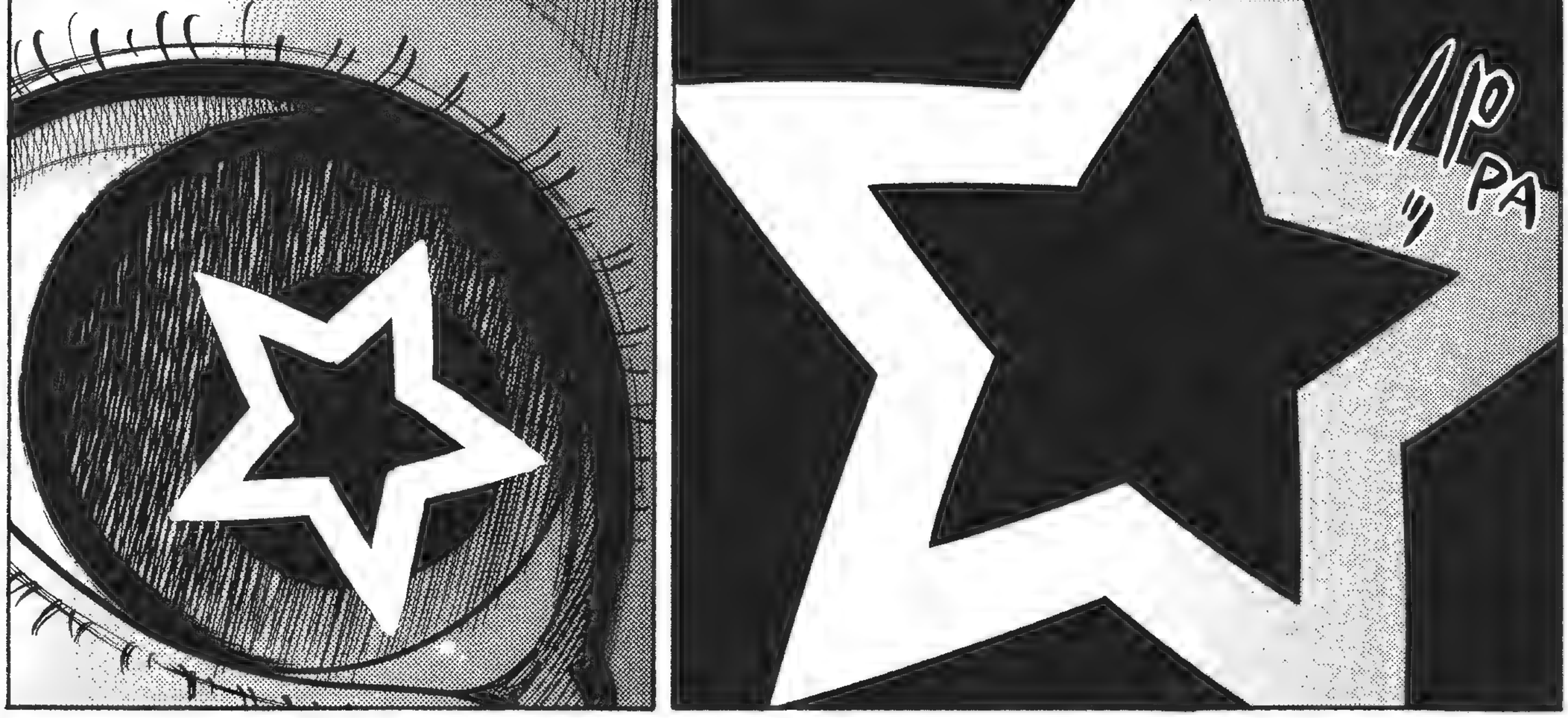
CREAK





DHFO...

SHWF
LIKE I DON'T EVEN CARE...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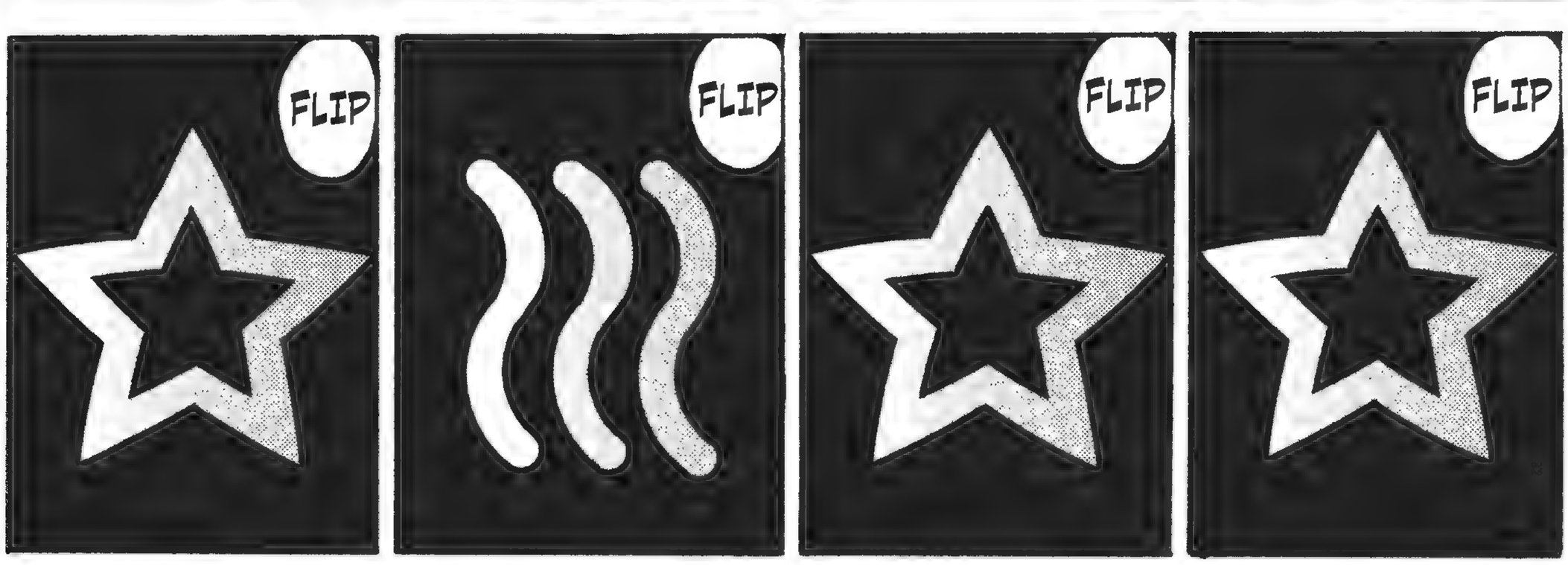
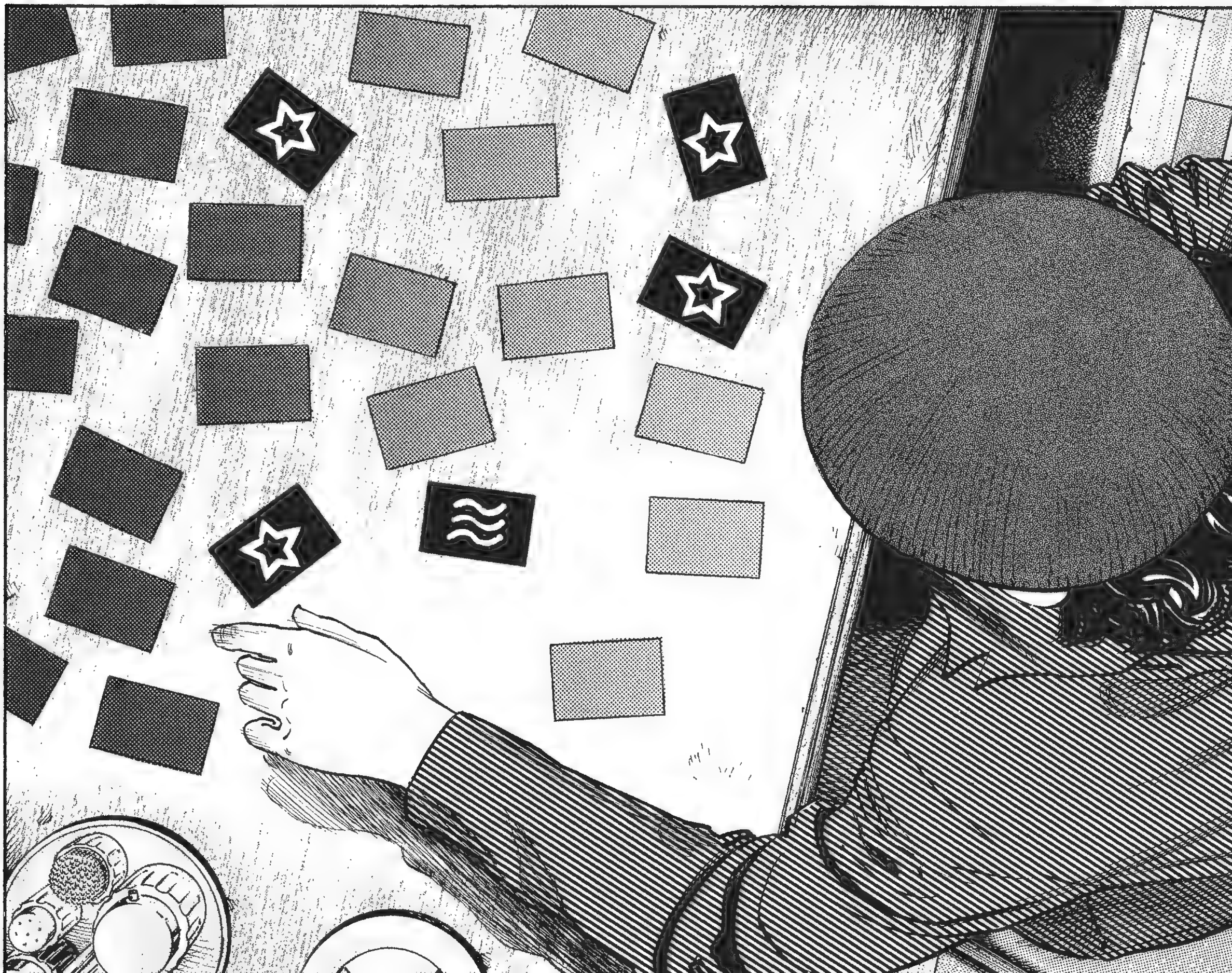

FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP



HEY! THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT?

WHOA.

SHWF

.....

FLIP

FLIP

FLIP

FLIP

FLIP

.....?

.....

STARE

STARE

FWIP

FWIP

FWIP

FWIP

WH...

WHAT?

LUNGE

NO! I DIDN'T SEE SHIT.

DID YOU SEE THEM WHEN I PUT THEM DOWN?

.....!

QUIT EYEING ME LIKE THAT.

STARE——

……

SO DON'T GET TOO FULL OF YOURSELF, OKAY?

WE'LL DO A MORE THOROUGH TEST TOMORROW.

RSTL

RSTL

FINE. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

TNK

TNK

YOU NEED TO DO THIS KIND OF THING AT LEAST FOUR TIMES. YOU HAVE TO DETERMINE A MEAN IF YOU WANT ACCURATE DATA.

I SUPPOSE IT'S... PASSABLE.

KBK

……

AHH, I SEE. FOUR OUT OF FIVE MUST BE A PRETTY GOOD SCORE THEN, HUH?

SMILE

I WROTE MY NUMBER ON THE BACK.

HOLD ON TO THIS FOR THE DURATION OF THE EXPERIMENT.

I'LL COME BY THE PARK JUST BEFORE NOON TOMORROW TO PICK YOU UP.

ANYWAY, GOOD JOB TODAY.

OKAY.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, GIVE ME A CALL.

SLUUURP

ズズズ

GTNK

ガコン

THE BA

やきとり

串かつ

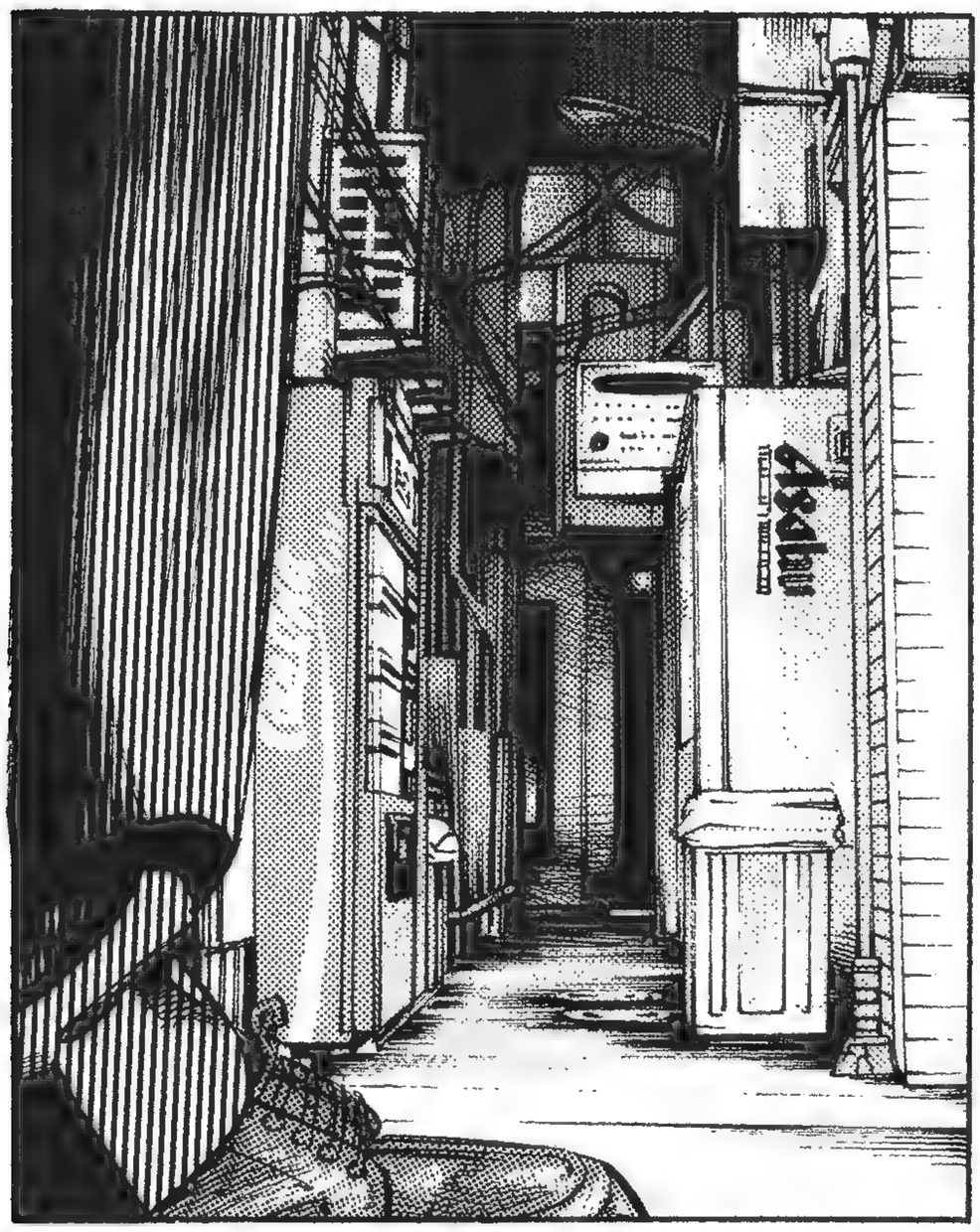
FUUU.

TMP

TMP

TMP

BWSHH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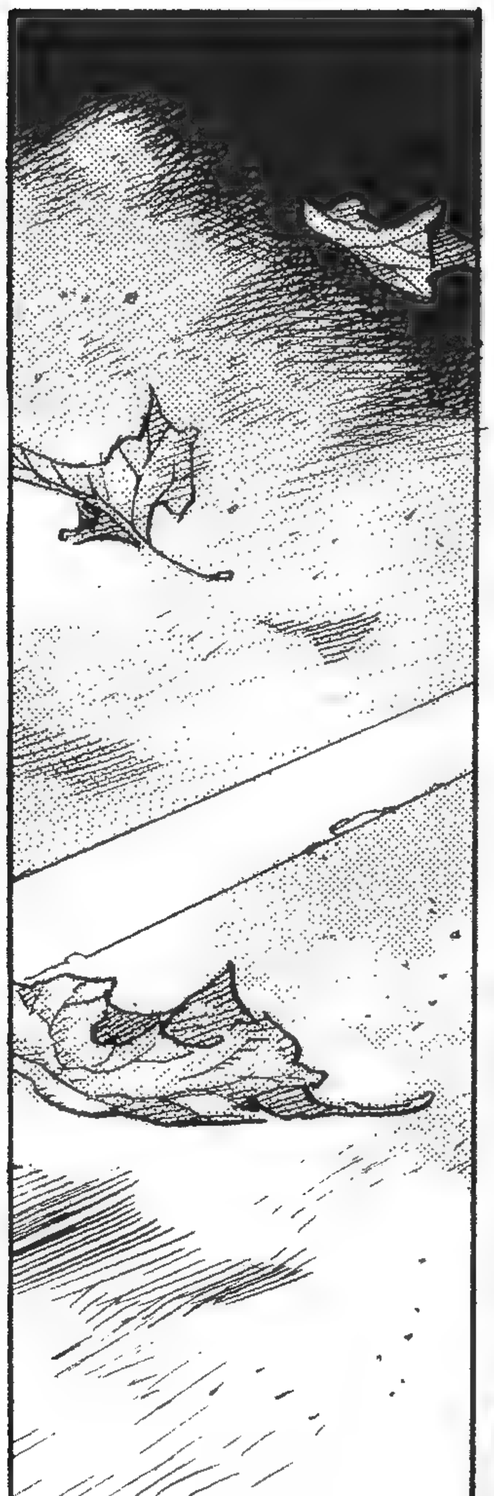
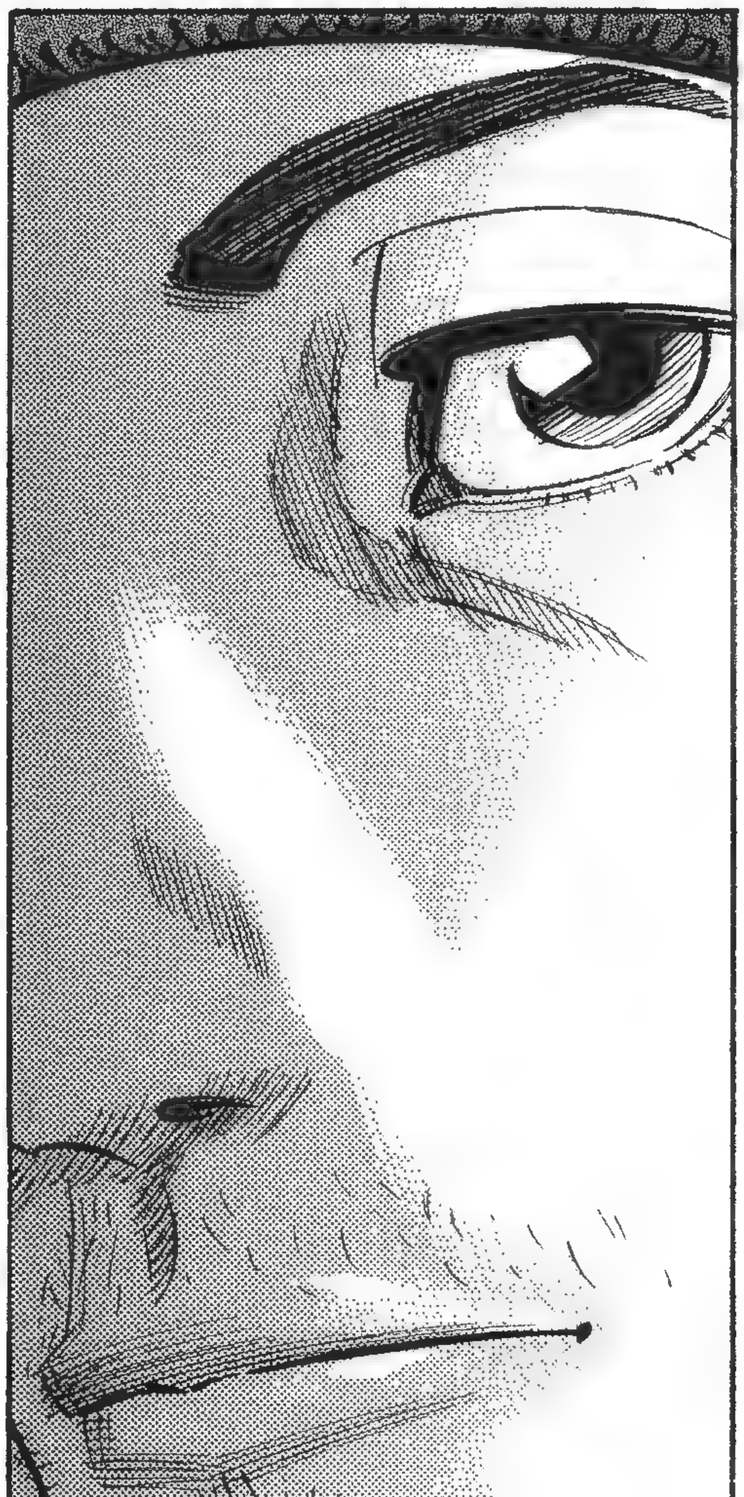


アダルトグッズ
バイアグラ



ERGH ...!

ZBWSHH

ゴ RUB ゴ RUB

.....

MY EYE...!

?!

BLINK

……

版取扱い店

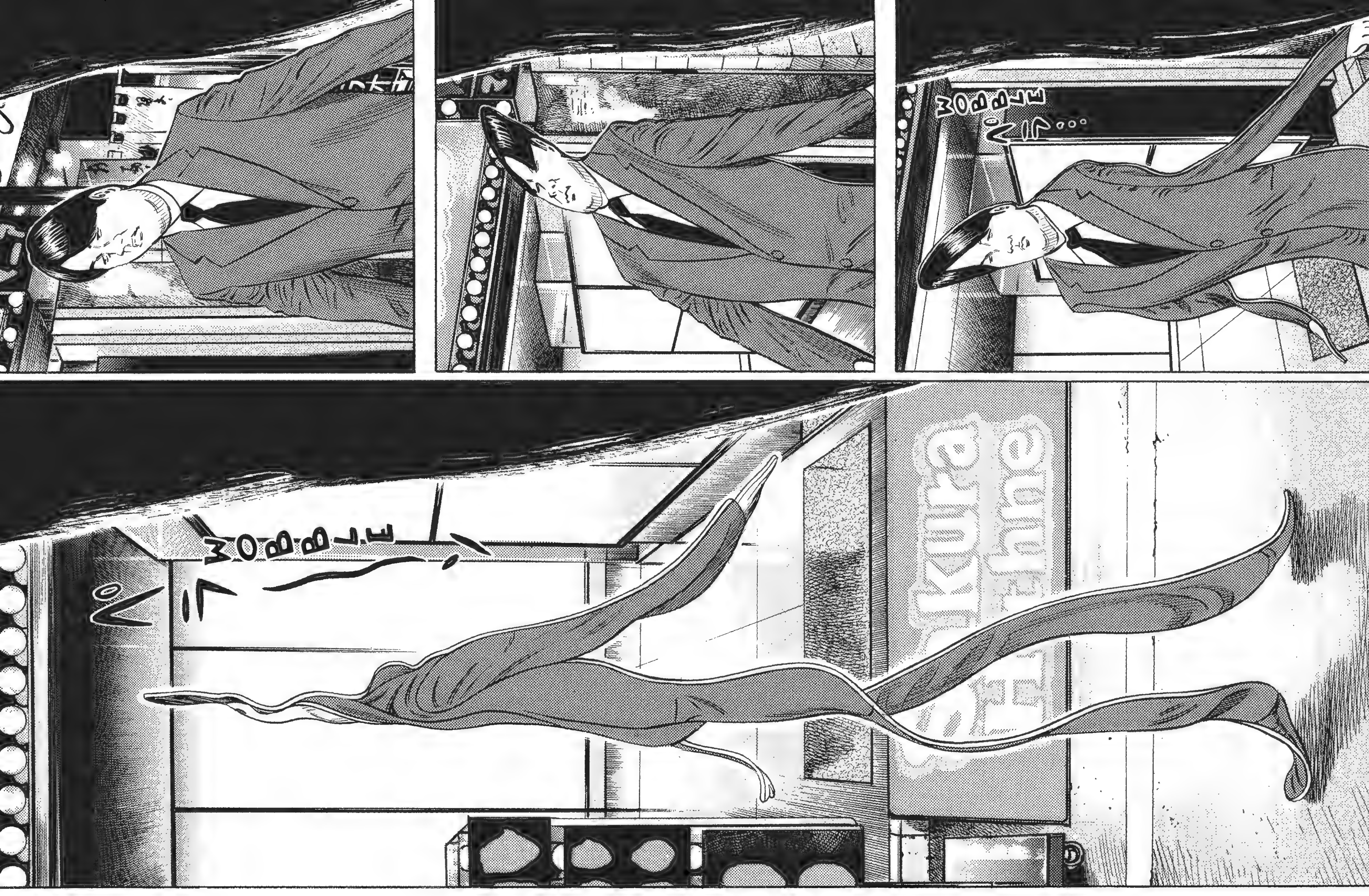
……？

入場無料

*Sign: We have all the newest works!

*Sign: Free Admission

SHF



WHAT ...?

TUCAC

ビデオ本

.....

WHP

NO WOBBLE

NO WOBBLE

SHF

WHAT...

THE *HELL?*

KOREA BAR

TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
ぺたん PLAD
ぺたん PLAD
BIP BO BIP BOOP
BIP BIP BIP
TUMP ズン
TUMP ズン
ズン TUMP
3

FWP

EXCUSE ME?

STARE——

SHF

STOP FREAKIN' *STARING* AT ME!!

UGH! WEIRDO!

SORRY, MA'AM.

S...

WHP

PIRO RO RO RO RO

HELLOOO? WHO'S THIS?

.....

SHE LOOKS NORMAL...

OH! TAKASHI-CHAAAN! ♡

N...

AWWW! ♡

Y'KNOW, I WAS LITERALLY *JUST* ABOUT TO CALL YOU!

UHH...

KNCH

NEVER MIND...

UIIIIIIIN

SPLOOSH

OH, I'M SOR...

CRAP!

YANK

GRIP...

カ!! CLENCH

YOU JUST RUINED OUR BOSS'S SUIT, YA PIECE OF SHIT!!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM ?!

.....!

カコン! KTNK

I...

I'M SO SORRY!

THAT AIN'T GONNA CUT IT, DICKWAD!!

WE AIN'T LETTIN' YOU OFF THAT EASY!!

GLANCE

SHP

DID THAT LITTLE BITCH JUST *WINK*?!

HEY! YOU LISTENING, PUNK?!!

ブラン DANGLE

ブラン DANGLE

HOIST

.....

THAT'S NOT WHAT I...!

NO!

YA THINK THIS IS FUNNY, WISE GUY?

.....

PSHH

Y...

SHF...

WHP

POKE

YOUR PINKY...

WHP

ドゴ

スーン

THWUMP

ダダダダ

DMP DMP DMP

BOSS! YOU ALL RIGHT?!

WHATCHA DO TO HIM, PUNK?!

HUH?

SHF

YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHIN', AIN'T YA?!!

!

PSHH

A...

.....!

CHILD ...?

GIMME YOUR KNIFE.

BOSS...

スクッ SWF

UH...

OF COURSE ...

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT.

YOU SURE 'BOUT THIS? HE'S A CIVVY...

BOSS...

HE'S LOSING HIS DAMN PINKY.

TMP

コツ

THIS'LL BE MY SEVENTY-SEVENTH ONE.

WH...

LISTEN, KID!

WHOA, WHOA, *HOLD ON!*

WAIT!

WHAT THE ...?!

THERE... THERE'S NO NEED TO CUT YOUR OWN PINKY LIKE THAT!

HALT

THE HELL ARE YOU RAMBLIN' ABOUT?

.....

.....?

WHOA!

WHOA!

WHOA!

GNG GNG GNG

.....

YOU'LL LOSE YOUR FINGER COM-PLETELY!

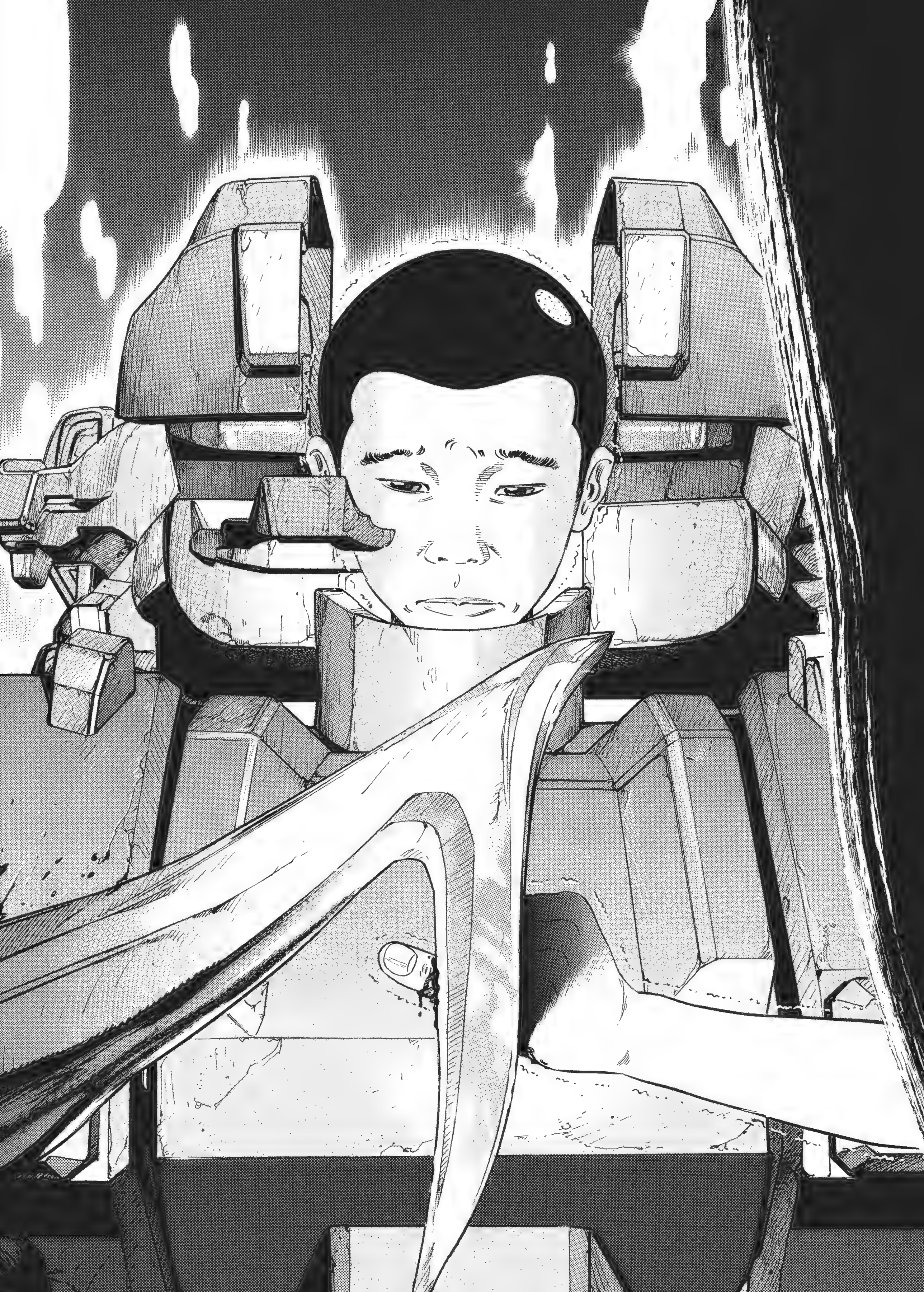
S-STOP! IF YOU KEEP DOING THAT...

HA HA HA!

POOR FUCK'S SCARED OUTTA HIS MIND. LITERALLY.

UH UH

PKNK
4
OH...
4"
GA-
SHANK
4"
GA-
SHANK
4"
¿!
¿.....?



HEY...

I KNEW IT.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT?

A CHILD!

PUNK THINKS HE CAN MAKE FUN OF ME.

I'LL FUCKING *KILL* YOU.

SHK

COME ON...

PEOPLE ARE WATCHING!

BOSS, NOT HERE!

B...

SICKLE ...?

PLEASE... JUST PUT THE SICKLE DOWN...

TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
?
.....?
GR
AB
.....?!
THAT'S IT.
YOU ALL RIGHT?
BOSS? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

JUST STOP. YOU CAN'T KEEP HURTING YOURSELF LIKE THIS.

HEY, HEY!

IT'S OKAY! THERE'S NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT.

ボタ PLIP
ボタ PLIP
ボタ PLIP
ボタ PLIP
ボタ PLIP

DSH
DSH
DSH
DSH

WHY?
WHAT THE HELL IS...?
HUH?
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP

.....?

?

CRYING SO HARD...?

WHY ARE YOU...

STAY BACK !!

BOSS, WHAT'S GOING ON?

SWF

DAMMIT.

TCH.

SHUT UP! STAY AWAY FROM ME!!

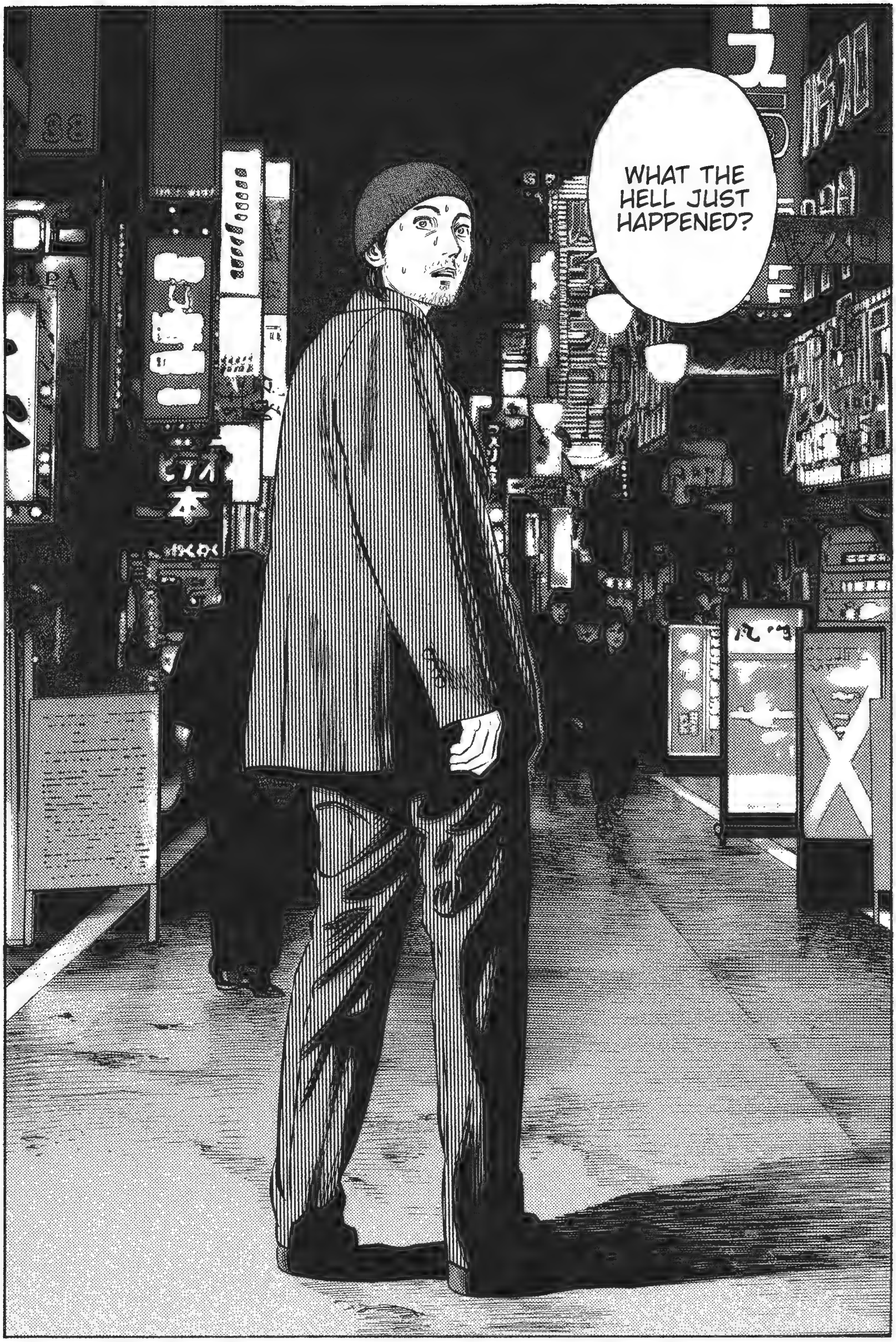
BOSS, PLEASE! WAIT UP!

BOOOSS!

I SAID *STAY THE HELL AWAY!!*

BUT *BOOOSS!*

ガ
GA-
SHANK
ガ
GA-
SHANK
SHP
……


WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?
X

HALT

BIP BIP BIP

PTNK

.....

SCREW IT. HE'LL JUST MAKE FUN OF ME.

RSTL

SHF

WHAT IS *THAT?!*

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...

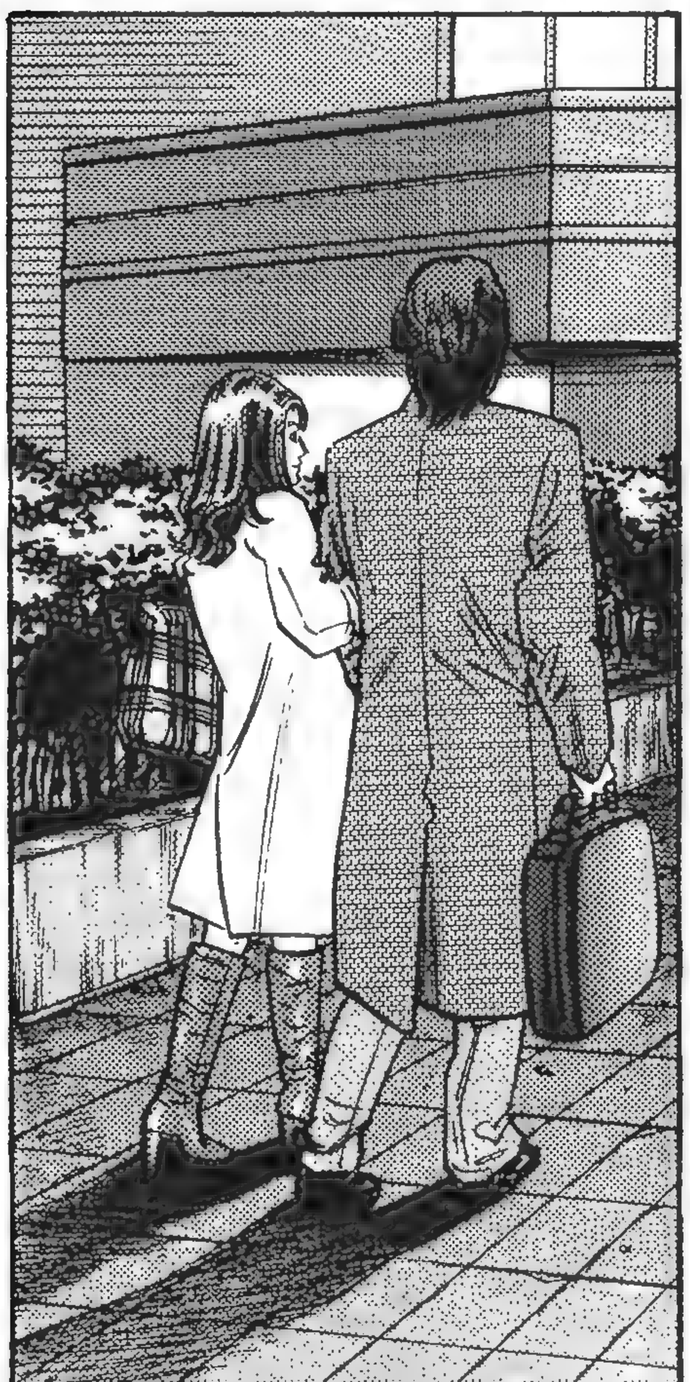
VROOM

SKRRT

VECI SPLOH JUKEJ AOZORA PARK
NO LIVE MUSIC
Please refrain from using any instruments, amplified sound systems, or other such amplifiers while in this park.
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB

STILL...
WHAT THE HELL JUST HAP-PENED?

NEVER BEEN HAPPIER T'GET HOME.
RMB
RMB
RMB



.....!

SHF

.....

.....?!

STARE...

I KNEW IT. I WAS JUST IMAGINING THINGS BACK THERE.

.....

SHUFF

JSSH

ジョボ

JSSH

ジョボ

EVENING.

AH, THE COOK.

IF IT ISN'T THE CAR GUY.

OH, HEY.

PARDON ME...

ジョボボボボボ JSSHHHHH

ガサ KLATTA

CHILLY OUT THERE, HUH? WE'VE HAD A REAL STREAK OF COLD NIGHTS LATELY.

ジョボボボボボ JSSHHHHH

YEAH.

SQUINT

COLD...

SO...

ジョボボボボボ JSSHHHHH

GLANCE

THE LAST FEW NIGHTS HAVE BEEN...

JSSHHHHH

.....!!

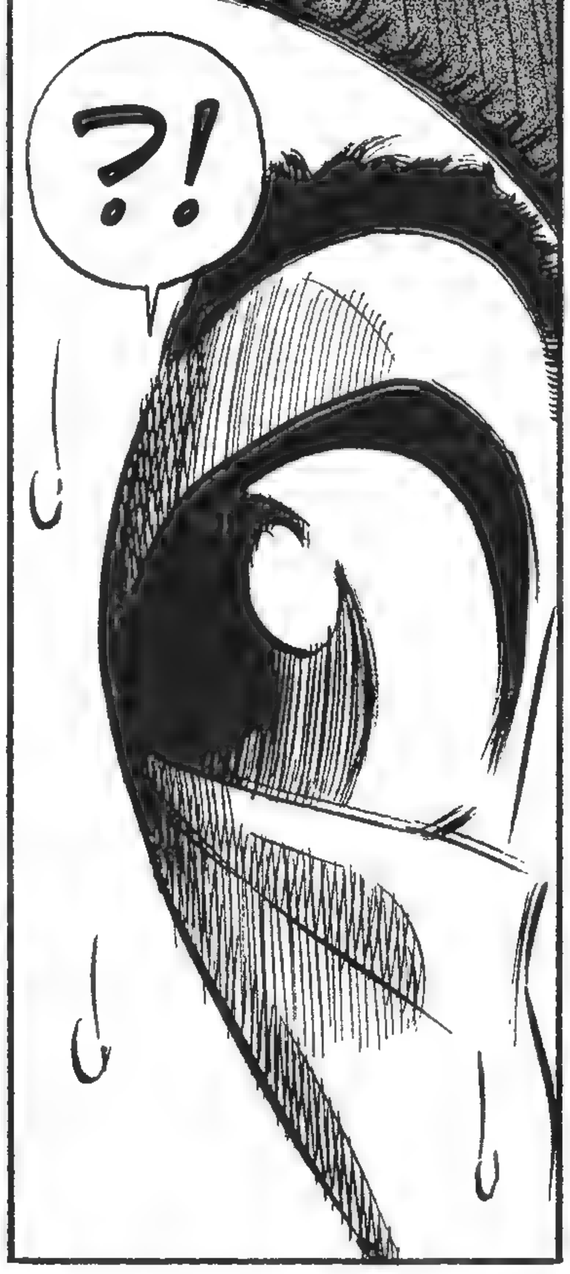
I...HAD TO GET MY CAR FIXED, SO...

GLANCE...

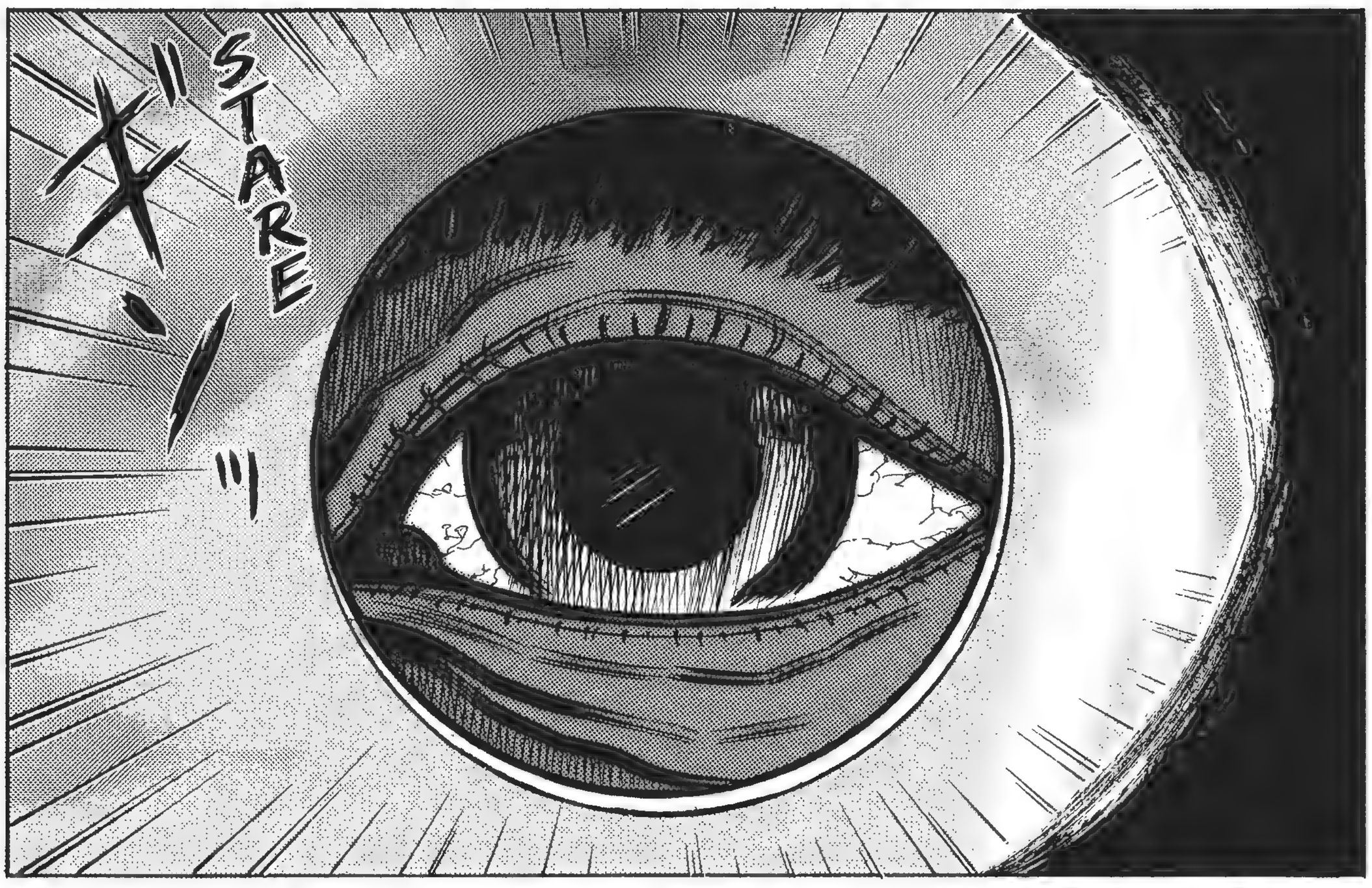
I DIDN'T SEE YOU AROUND THE PARK YESTERDAY.

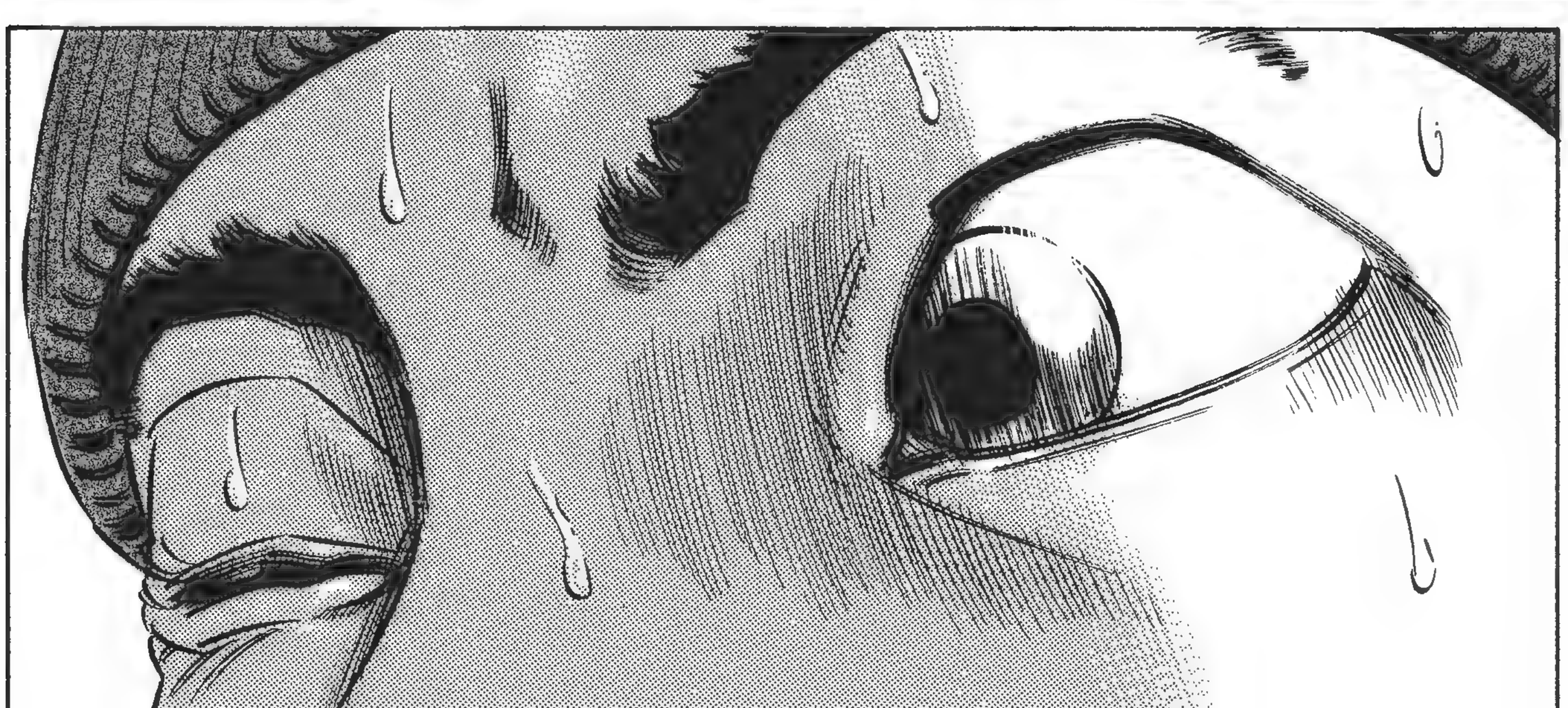
N... NO.

ハイイン


?!

ハ!!


ISTARE
ハ!!



SHUUUN
シュウーン！

チラッ GLANCE

チラッ GLANCE

PLSH

PLSH

PLSH

!

SHF...

.....

TRMBL

TRMBL

TRMBL

KH!

FWP

BA-
TNK

IT'LL ALL BE OVER BY T'MORROW. IT'S GOTTA BE.

SO FRIGGIN' COLD!

RMB
f"
RMB
f"
RMB
f"
RMB
f"

コ
ツ
TOK
コ
ツ
TOK
コ
ツ
TOK
コ
ツ
TOK

NAKOSHI-
SAAAN.

URGH...

RUB
ゴシ
RUB
ゴシ

OH.

AH!
YOU'RE
UP!

RUSTLE

!!

?

.....

THE THEME IS "PROGRESS"!

IS THAT STUFF AROUND YOUR EYES?

WHAT THE HELL...

WHAT'S WRONG?

COOL, RIGHT?

OH, THIS?

NOW THEN, LET'S GET LUNCH OR SOMETHING AND DISCUSS OUR PLANS FOR TODAY.

YOU'RE RATHER PALE TODAY, NAKOSHI-SAN.

YEAH, I *BET* I AM.

♪ ♬ ♬

REALLY? AND WHAT...?

SURE DID.

SHK SHK

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

WHP

.....!

WAIT. YOU MEAN...?

Sal[illegible] man (pretty fat)

Becomes thin and wobbly.

Maybe two centimeters thick?

Neck

There's another face and hand in this cut area.

Body split in half. The two halves are switched and holding hands.

Missing back half of head. Not made of flesh.

One of those loud, heavily made-up types.

Woman cut into six round slices.

[illegible]tter hips spin around, but no other part does.

A little boy inside the robot? He's trying to use his right [illegible] to cut off the p[illegible] of his left!

Silver egg. His eyes

Penis glans on head.

IT'S STUPID, RIGHT?

YEAH. YEAH ...

RSTL

WHAT IS THIS? I MEAN, DID YOUR EXPERIMENT DRIVE ME INSANE OR SOMETHING?

YEAH...

J...JUST HOLD ON ONE SECOND.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT "YEAH, YEAH" SHIT!

I'M ASKING YOU A QUESTION! WHEN I CLOSE MY RIGHT EYE AND LOOK WITH MY LEFT, I SEE ALL THIS CRAZY SHIT. ARE THEY HALLUCI-NATIONS OR *WHAT?*

.....

RSTL

I NEED MORE DETAILS ABOUT ALL THIS.

NO WAY. YOU CAN'T REALLY *BELIEVE* THIS CRAP.

KLATTA

NAKO-SHI-SAN...

Silver egg Hi

Head is a fish.

Body is

RSTL

LET'S ASSUME I *DO* BELIEVE YOU, AND WORK FROM THERE.

ズズ…
SIIIIP

……!

AND…YOU SAY THIS BOSS THEN STARTED CRYING *IN REAL LIFE?*

TRYING TO CUT OFF HIS OWN SCARRED PINKY.

AND INSIDE THE ROBOT WAS THIS KID…

SO, THE ONLY ONE YOU GOT UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH WAS THIS ROBOT. THE YAKUZA LEADER, RIGHT?

HE LOOKED LIKE HE MIGHT BURST INTO TEARS AT ANY SECOND.

YEAH…

A little boy inside the
he's trying to use
to cut off

THE ONLY RATIONAL EXPLANATION FOR IT ALL IS THAT I'VE GONE CRAZY.

I MEAN, THIS GUY WAS A YAKUZA BOSS WITH A KNIFE!

YEP.

KTK

WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD SAY THE SHIT I DID WITH A KNIFE TO THEIR THROAT?

COULDN'T HELP CALLING OUT TO THE POOR KID.

I KNEW IT WAS STUPID, BUT I...

BUT I JUST... COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF THAT LITTLE BOY.

.....

WAS THAT KID TRYING TO CUT OFF HIS OWN PINKY LIKE THAT?

WHY ON EARTH...

OH, NO! DEFINITELY NOT.

NOT AT *ALL!*

WHAT'RE YOU SMILING ABOUT?

YOU THINK EVERYTHING I'M SAYING IS STUPID, DON'T YOU?

WHAT WAS THE RATIO?

I'D SAY IT WAS ABOUT FIFTY-FIFTY.

YOU SAID THAT THERE WERE SOME NORMAL HUMANS TOO, RIGHT? PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T CHANGE AT ALL, MIXED IN WITH ALL THE MONSTERS.

YEAH.

ANYTHING AT ALL, REALLY.

FOR EXAMPLE, THEIR COLOR, THEIR SHAPE, THEIR GENERAL VIBE...

IN COMMON ...?

I CAN'T QUITE TELL JUST FROM LOOKING AT YOUR SKETCHES, BUT... DID THE MONSTERS SHARE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH ONE ANOTHER?

A little boy inside the robot? He's trying to use his right hand to cut off the pinky of his left!

Silver egg. His eyes

Girl.

HUH ...?!

SHF

GIMME A SECOND.

.....

THERE SURE ARE.

YEAH...

THERE ARE SOME IN THIS ROOM?

TH...

!

THE ONLY COMMONALITY I CAN GIVE YOU IS...THEY ALL SEEM...

LET'S SEE...

YOU KNOW THAT OLD TROPE OF MONSTERS TAKING HUMAN FORM? IT'S LIKE THAT...

BUT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

MORE LIKE...

SPIN SPIN

INHUMAN? OR...

.....

AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT FEELS TO ME.

UH-HUH.

SEEING THEM RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU?

YOU'RE...

YES...

FOR EXAMPLE, SEE THOSE TWO GAUDY OLD BAGS SHARING A TABLE OVER THERE?

WITH THE GLASSES...

THE OTHER ONE...

SWF

SEEMS NORMAL. BUT...

THE ONE IN FRONT WITH THE SHORT HAIR...

SKRRT SKRRT

The two halves are switched and hold

!!!

LOOKS LIKE THIS.

No neck!

No neck!

.....

NAKOSHI-SAN...

No neck!

RST!...

.....!

KINDA GOOFY, HUH?

No neck!

THIS ISN'T A LIE OR DUMB JOKE, *RIGHT?*

FOR THE MOST PART, I BELIEVE YOU. BUT JUST TO BE SURE...

OR SOME KIND OF JOKE OR...

HONESTLY, I REALLY DON'T. I HAVE NO IDEA IF WHAT I'M SAYING IS TRUE...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF.

WHO CAN SAY?

IT *IS* KIND OF SIMILAR, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT HER IS DIFFERENT.

IT'S JUST... NAKOSHI-SAN, SHE LOOKS LIKE...THAT NECKLESS MONSTER FROM *ULTRAMAN*.

No neck!

SHE'S **PROTECTING** HER NECK.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE...

.....?!

THAT'S HOW IT FEELS, ANYWAY.

HER NECK ...?

.....

GLANCE

MY NECK IS KILLING ME.

UGH! JEEZ...

JOLT

ビク

!!!

STARE...

No neck!

I WAS MILES AWAY...

WHP

IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?

TAKA-HASHI-SAN?

.....

I'M SO SORRY.

OH, GOSH!

.....

STARE

GLANCE

NAKOSHI-
SA...

NYOING

NYOING

NYOING

NYOING

TWITCH

.....

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

NYOING
NYOING

!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH...

LOOKING OUT OF JUST ONE EYE GETS TIRING, THAT'S ALL. IT GETS ALL BLURRY.

WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

!

NAKOSHI-SAN... ONE LAST THING.

of e up

Woman cut into six round slices.

A little bo robot? He's his right h the pink

No neck!

BUT YOU LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME.

is a safe.

Are they a couple?

Port does

NORMAL.

.....!

TOTALLY NORMAL.

TUG

TUG

JUST TRUST ME.

.....

TELL IT TO ME STRAIGHT!

OH, COME ON!

THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW.

SO? WHAT'S THE VERDICT? HAVE I GONE BATSHIT OR NOT?

!

YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BEFORE I GO *COMPLETELY* OFF THE DEEP END.

OR ARE THESE THINGS REAL?

AM I DELUSIONAL?

NAKOSHI-SAN...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DID THIS TO ME. YOU'D BETTER NOT BE TRYING TO WEASEL OUT OF THAT.

WHOA, WHOA.

WOULDN'T YOU SAY THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN DELU-SION AND REALITY?

.....

IT CAN BE ALL TOO EASY FOR FANTASY TO SOLIDIFY INTO REALITY.

THINK ABOUT IT. JUST AS IT'S EASY FOR REALITY TO SLIP INTO FANTASY...

DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!

TAP

TAP

I'LL TAKE GOOOOD CARE OF ALL OF THIS.

WHATEVER YOU NEED TO TELL YOURSELF.

?!

IF I THINK FOR EVEN A SECOND THAT YOU'RE SCREWING AROUND...

THAT'S IT. EXPERIMENT BE DAMNED, I'M OUTTA HERE. GOT IT?

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN LEAVE ME NOW.

.....

!

NAKOSHI-SAN...

I'LL CONTACT YOU TONIGHT.

ガタ"
KLATTA

KLATTA

AH!

I'LL LOOK THROUGH MY OLD RESEARCH, SEE IF I CAN FIND ANY EXPLA-NATIONS.

JUST GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME.

FIRST, I'M GOING TO HAVE A CHAT WITH OUR NECKLESS MONSTER.

WHAT'S THE RUSH?

HEY...

WHAT IS IT?

PAR-DON...

FWP

?!

.....

THAT WOMAN ...

HERE YOU GO. YOUR PRESENT, AS PROMISED.

OOH, YAY!

?

KLAT

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THIS IS *SOOO* SWEET OF YOU!!

11° KLA-TAK

11° KLA-TAK

11° KLA-TAK

11° KLA-TAK

SCREW THIS!

WHP

WHP

GRN

PON

.....

WHP

DING

GRN

PHEW
...

!!!

WHAT A...

DMP

WHOA!

WATCH YOUR-SELF, YOUNG MAN!

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

TMP

.....

11"

BA-TNK

TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE. TOO MANY MONSTERS.

RSTL
RSTL

VROOOM

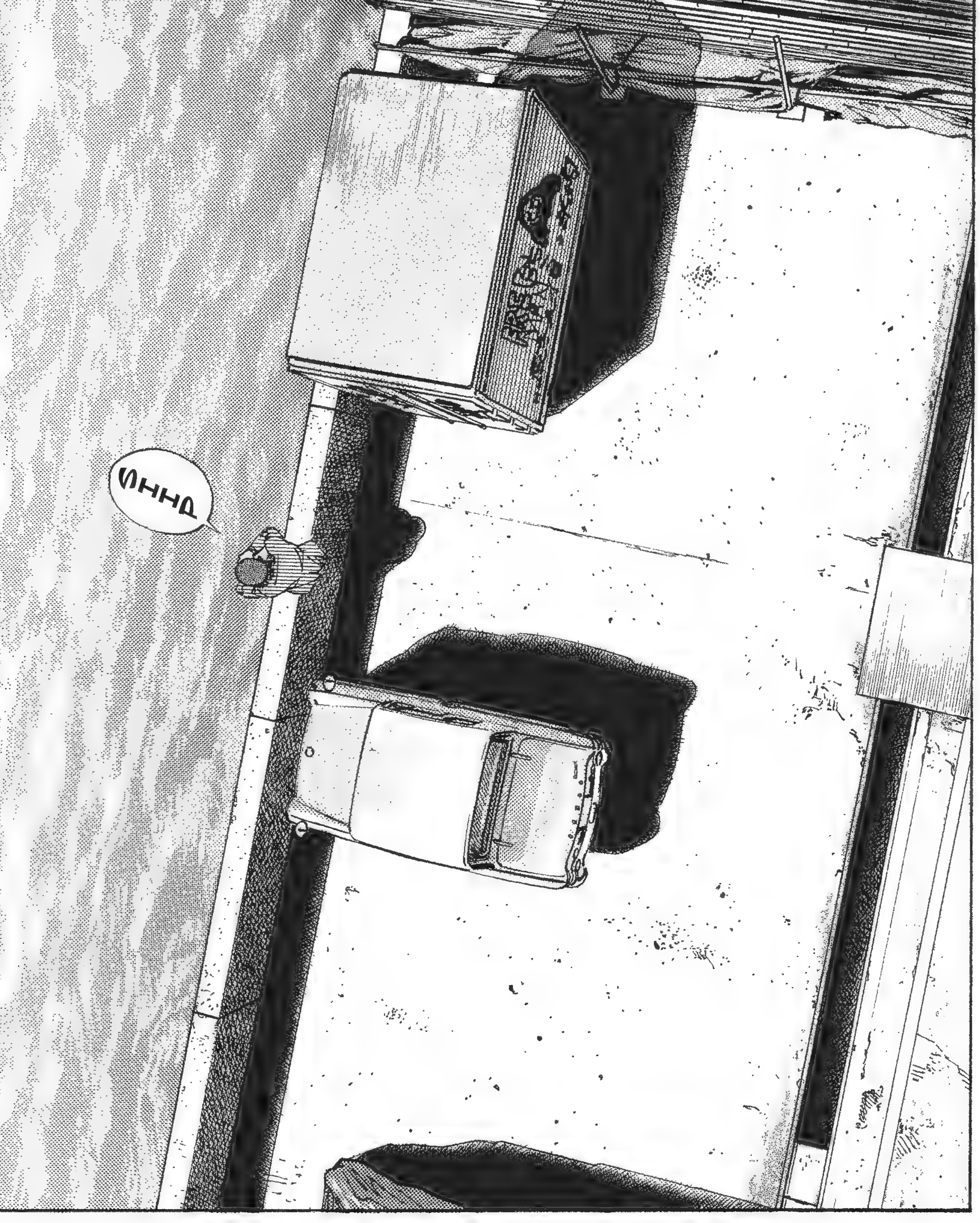
GNK

FWP

REEEEEE

I'VE GOTTA FIND SOME-WHERE I CAN BE ALONE.

VROOOO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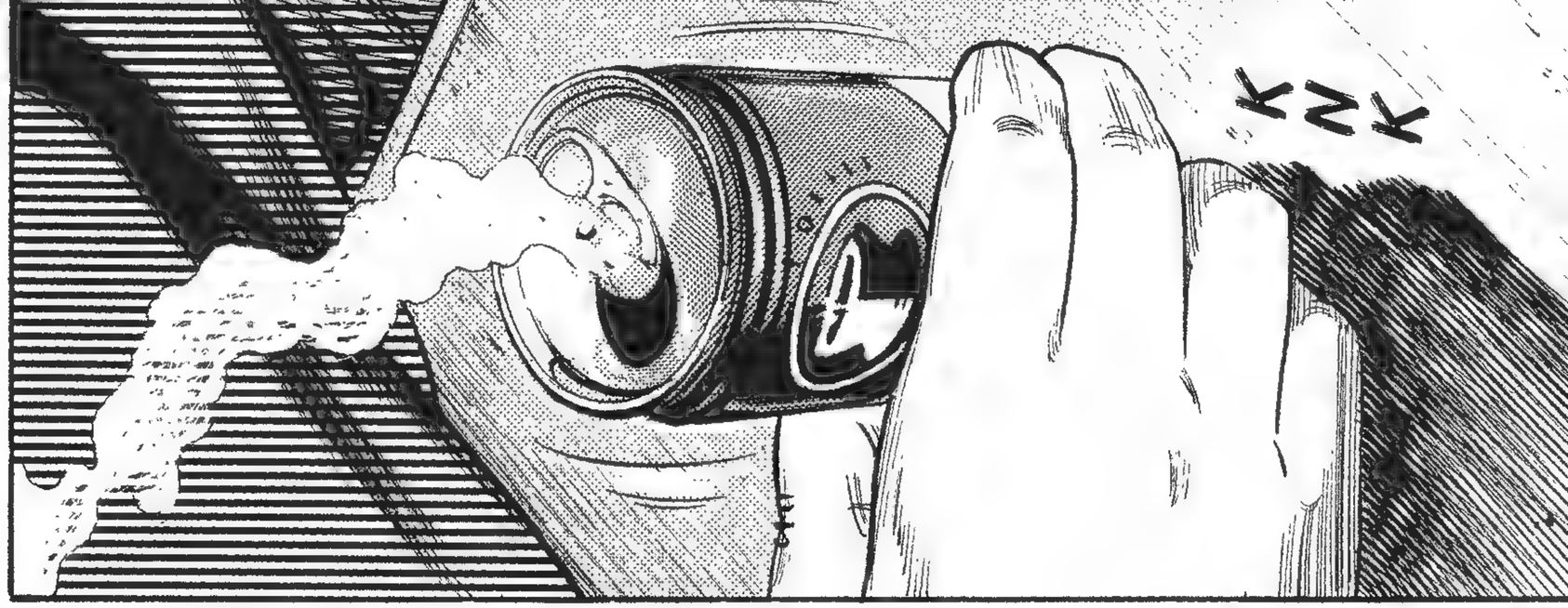

KNK

PHEW...

PI
RO
RO
RO
RO

PI
RO
RO
RO
RO

PI
RO
RO
RO
RO

NAKOSHI-SAN, IT'S ITO.

HEY. WHAT'S UP?

HELLO?

.....?

I'VE GOT IT! I'VE WORKED THE WHOLE THING OUT!!

?!

I'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT YOUR NECKLESS MONSTER IS!

Call Time:

29 sec.

Connected

SHE'S A HOMUN-CULUS!

A... HOMUN-CULUS?

BIP

I'M ACTUALLY SOMEWHERE PRETTY REMOTE RIGHT NOW...

I'LL CALL YOU BACK WHEN I'M CLOSER.

WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?

THEY ALL ARE! THEY... WELL, LET'S TALK ABOUT IT IN MORE DETAIL IN PERSON.

通話

Connected

PICK PICK

!

HO-MUNKYUH... SOMETHIN', *EH?*

THINKS HE KNOWS WHAT'S GOIN' ON... Y'AIN'T GOT A CLUE, YA PRICK.

GA-SHK

RSTL

TOTAL HORSESHIT, IF YA ASK ME.

SMEAR

SMEAR

TCH.

SHFF

BIP

WOW...

I HAVEN'T HEARD THIS SONG...

IN *FOREVER.*

TAP

TAP

ALL I HAD BACK THEN WAS ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD...

THAT CONCRETE CURB WAS MY ONLY ABODE.

MY FRIENDS ON THE BLOCK ...

HANGIN' ON THE SIDE-WALK...

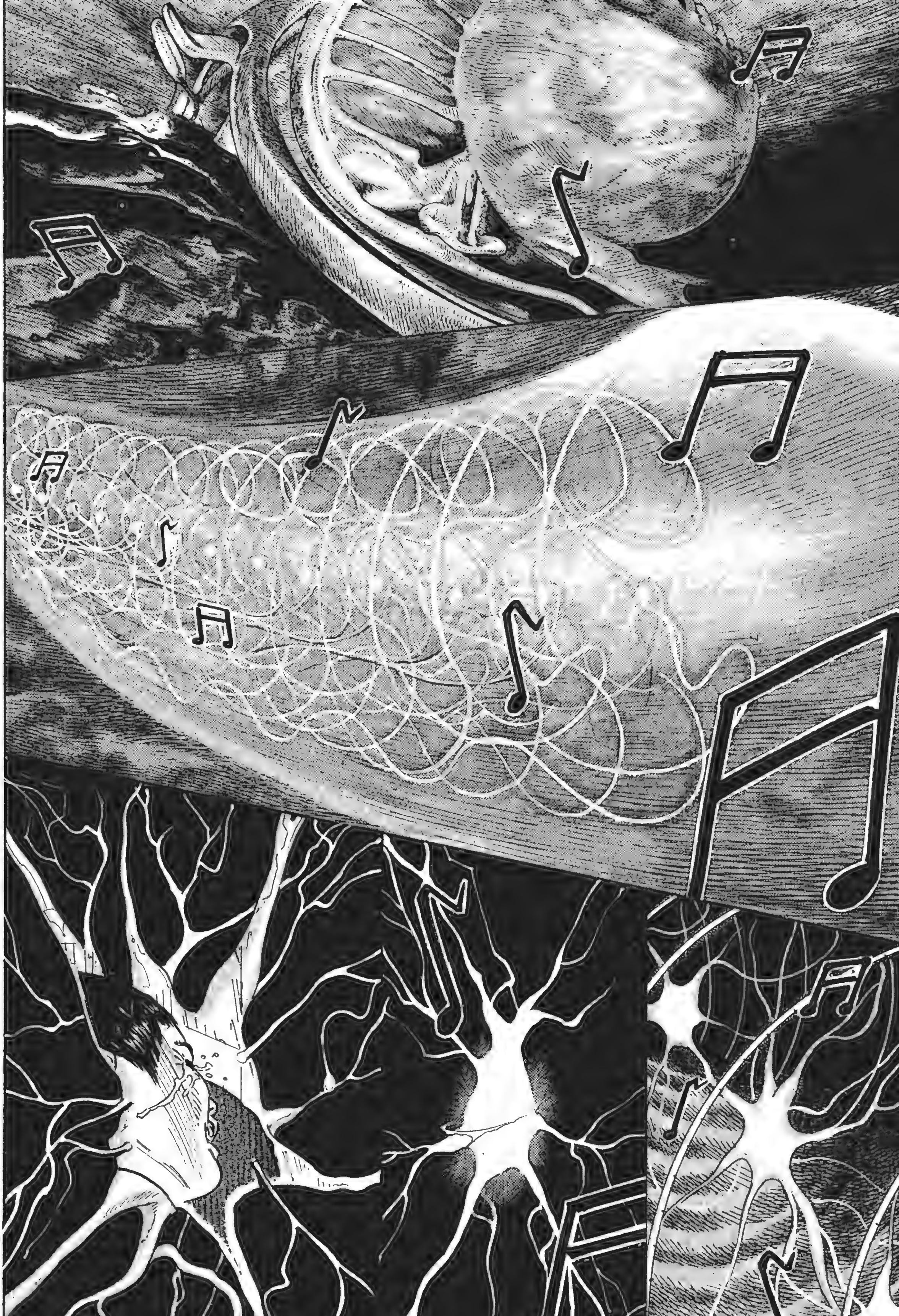
THAT PAVE-MENT WAS WHAT I REALLY ADORED ...

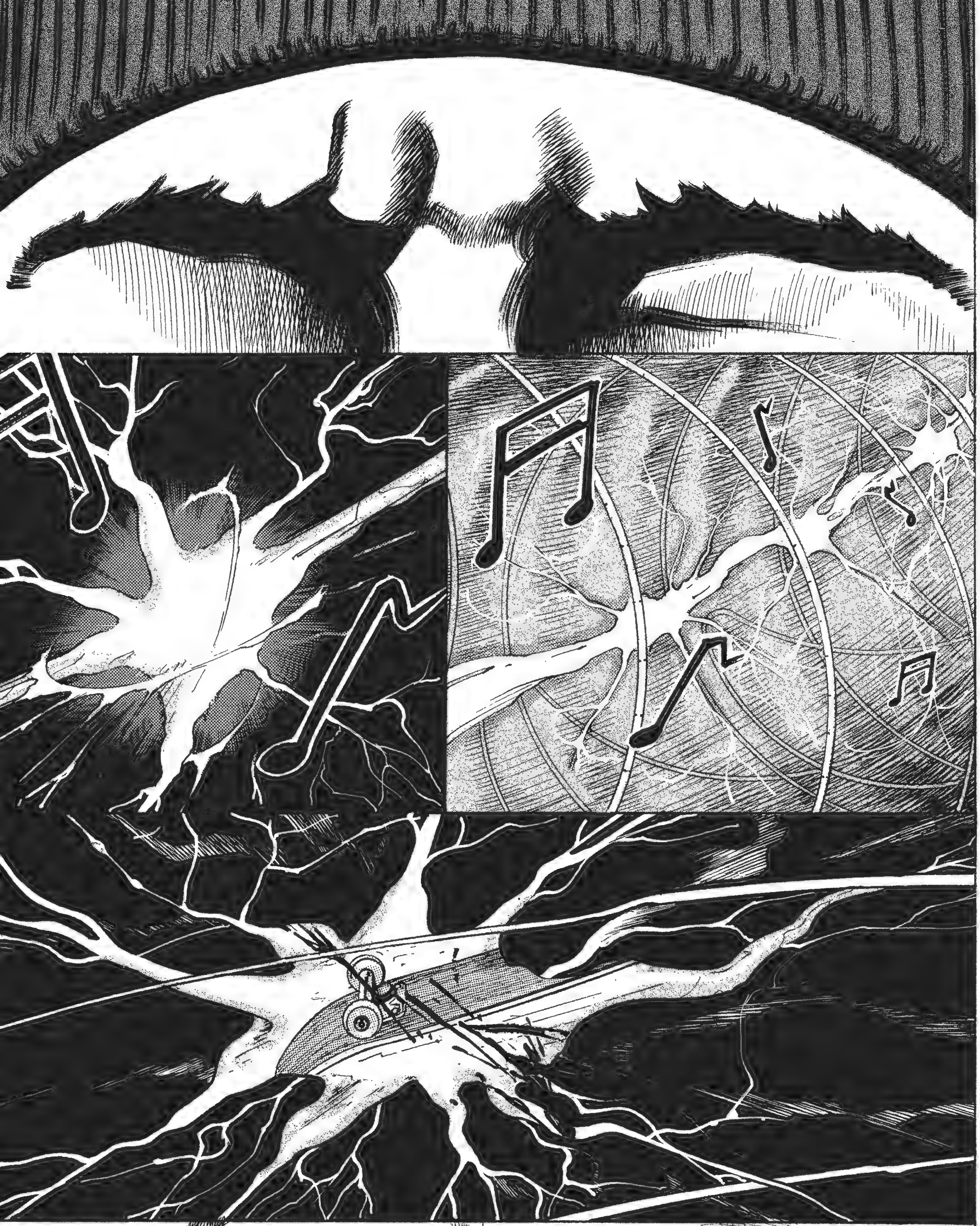
PLAYIN' KICK-THE-CAN, TOY CARS, AND SKATE-BOARDS ...

SKATE-BOARDS...

HALT

I WONDER WHAT KEN-CHAN'S DOIN' RIGHT NOW...





!!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE...I'M MAKING THE SAME EXPRESSION AS THAT LITTLE BOY IN THE ROBOT.

TH...

THE HELL KINDA FACE IS THAT?

!!!

SKRIIII

WAIT A DAMN MINUTE.

MAYBE I AIN'T GOIN' NUTSO AFTER ALL.

I MEAN, THAT YAKUZA BOSS WAS *DEFINITELY* REACTIN' TO WHAT I SAID. HE EVEN *CRIED.*

ガコン
GA-
KNK

……

BIP

ISK

ヤ
SKRI
ヤ
RI

ハンドル

Hideo Yamamoto

Born in 1968, in Saitama Prefecture.

Hideo Yamamoto is his real name.

Assistant experience: Kenshi Hirokane-sensei, Ikuko Kujirai-sensei.

Works: *SHEEP, Okama Hakusho, Voyeur, Ichi the Killer, Homunculus, HIKARI-MAN.*

Volume 2

とんかつ
BF
30

SKFF
!!

ゲーセン
チビ一番
フィギュア
とんかつ
とこ
と
30

OH...

THE GUYS FROM LAST NIGHT.

HEY!

!

.....?!

THERE HE IS!!

UH...

GRAB

CROWD
!!
CROWD
!!
SMIRK
.....
?!
THE BOSS HAS BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YA.
SKFF
SKFF
SKFF

!

SO...WHAT DOES HE WANT?

TELL YA WHAT, THOUGH-- HE SURE WAS IN A FRENZY TO FIND YA.

SHF

BEATS ME.

?!

KLIK

WHATEVER HE'S GOT PLANNED AIN'T GONNA BE PRETTY.

YOU WON'T HAVE 'EM LONG.

FUU

BEST SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR FINGERS.

CHOPPIN' OFF DIGITS IS HIS CALLING CARD.

HEH HEH HEH...

OUR BOSS IS FAMOUS FOR IT, Y'KNOW. EVEN HERE IN SHINJUKU.

CHOPPING OFF DIGITS?

!

HE'S JUST *DYING* TO SEE YA 'GAIN.

SEE?

社長室

Sign: Director's Office

……

……

SO...

.....

HELL IF I KNOW!

WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME, SIR?

WHY...

AND WHY'S THAT?

?!

WELL, TO BE HONEST, SIR... I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, TOO.

I JUST...

'SCUSE ME?

ACTU-ALLY...

I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY EITHER, SIR.

KNEW I NEEDED TO MEET YOU AGAIN.

STARE...

JUST WHAT THE *HELL* DID YOU DO TO ME?

TWITCH

LAST NIGHT...

YOU JUST...?

I JUST...

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING TO YOU.

!

I JUST SAW IT.

UM...

SAW WHAT?!

SAW... IT?

WELL...ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

GLANCE...

IF I HAVE TO PUT IT INTO WORDS, I GUESS...

NOT QUITE.

NO...

A GUARDIAN SPIRIT OR SOMETHIN'? *THAT* KINDA CRAP?

LIKE WHAT? LIKE...

Scroll: Justice

.....!

AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT FELT.

I SAW *YOU.* IN YOUR ENTIRETY.

AND...ARE YOU STILL SEEING IT NOW?!

WHAT DID YOU SEE?!

DON'T GET ALL METAPHORICAL ON ME.

UH-HUH.

I'M SEEING IT JUST FINE.

!!

YOU...STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME. JUST *WHAT* ARE YOU SEEING?

A ROBOT.

Scroll: Justice

YES SIR.

A ROBOT ?!

ARE YOU FUCKED IN THE HEAD OR SOME-THIN'?!

!

OFF YA GO AGAIN, SAME CRAP AS YESTERDAY.

COVERIN' ONE EYE, RAVIN' LIKE A MANIAC. "DON'T CUT YOUR OWN PINKY," ALL THAT SHIT ABOUT SICKLES...

PINKIES ...

SICKLES. THAT STUFF.

ANY OF WHAT?

DOES ANY OF THAT SOUND FAMILIAR TO YOU?

HMMM...

DOESN'T RING ANY BELLS.

PINKIES...

AND SICKLES?

FINE.

.....?

SORRY, BUT...

COULD YOU SHOW ME YOUR LEFT HAND?

.....

!

SHF

.....!?

I'LL HAVE TO TOUCH IT, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

.....!

PRESS PRESS

!

YOUR HAND...

IT EVEN FEELS LIKE A MACHINE.

THAT'S ODD.

YOUR PINKY LOOKS ROBOTIC TOO, BUT...

.....

PULL

PULL

THIS'LL JUST TAKE A MOMENT.

UM...

PULL

……?

PULL PULL PULL PULL PULL

……

HUH ...?!

PINKY !!

……

COME ON OUT, LITTLE BOY!!!

SICKLE !!

CHILD !!

HMMM...

STARE

.....

HUH?!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU YELLING ABOUT, YOU WACKO?

!!

AH!!

WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU?

PSSH!

.....?

.....

GRAB !!

THAT'S RIGHT... IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, YOUR FACE IS S'POSED TO OPEN UP...

SHOVE !!

FWUMP

.....?!

TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL

CLENCH

!

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M JOKING TO YOU?

SOME SICK JOKE?

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, YOU LITTLE SHIT?

.....

BELIEVE ME, I WOULDN'T BE FEELING UP ANOTHER GUY LIKE THIS WITHOUT A GOOD REASON. I DON'T SWING THAT WAY.

THIS CLOSE TO WORKING IT OUT.

I JUST FEEL...

WOULD YOU MIND...

IF I TOUCHED YOU JUST A LITTLE MORE?

?!

.....

SNIFF
SNIFF

PRESS

PRESS

PRESS

PLAP

.....

PLAP

PLAP

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

WHAT THE...? WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

HM?!

SNIFF SNIFF

.....

.....

SNIFF SNIFF

WHAT THE HELL?

SNIFF SNIFF

WHERE IS IT *COMING* FROM?

トン TMP

.....!

SNIFF SNIFF

SNIFF SNIFF

.....

BOSS, YOUR TEA IS REA...

GA— CHAK

AH!

THWD

OOF!

KLANG

AIN'T NOBODY TAUGHT YOU TO KNOCK...

AH... I, UM...

UH...

FWIP

YOU SON OF A BITCH?

SHICK

YOU'RE DEAD MEAT.

.....

I...I SWEAR, BOSS, I... I WON'T TELL A SOUL...

EEP...!

I DON'T "GOTTA" DO SHIT.

CLENCH

PLEASE, YA GOTTA FORGIVE ME...

PLEASE, BOSS!!

STICK OUT YOUR DAMN PINKY !!

!!!

仁義

仁義

Lanterns: Justice

TH...

THERE YOU ARE!

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

STOP IT!!

!

NO!! ANYTHING BUT THAT!

BOSS, I'LL DO *ANYTHING!*

KISS YOUR FINGER GOODBYE.

YANK

17"

THAT'S NO GOOD, BUD.

!

SKFF

SKFF

SKFF

.....?

SEE?

LOOK.

AGAIN WITH THIS SHIT?! NOTHING YOU SAY EVER MAKES A LICK OF DAMN SENSE!

?!

YOU'VE GOT TO STOP CUTTING YOUR OWN FINGER LIKE THAT!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?

!

GRAB

GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

.....

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

POKE

.....

YOU POOR LITTLE GUY... JUST LOOK AT ALL THESE SCARS!

OOPS.

WHP

OW!!

.....

DID THAT HURT?

SORRY, SORRY!

SHK

BACK OFF OR GET STABBED! I MEAN IT!

ｱｶｱ...

ｼﾞｬﾘ

CLENCH

ｼﾊｧ...

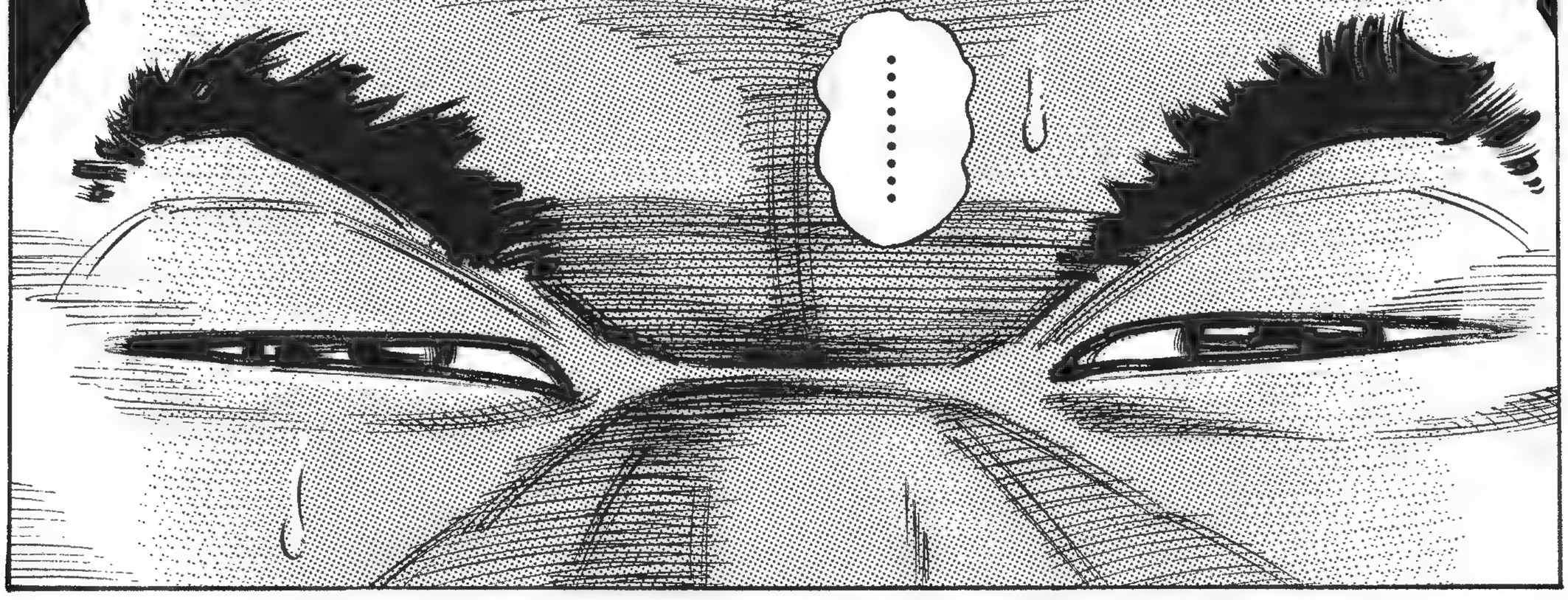
ERK ...!

WON'T LET YOU!

BECAUSE I...

I'LL... STAB...

YOU WON'T.


BA-
TNK
EEK!
EE...
YOU FREAK!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO WASTE MY TIME WITH THIS SHIT?!

ENOUGH OF THAT!

CUT THE SHIT, YOU LITTLE...

PUT THE SICKLE DOWN!

IT DOESN'T MATTER, OKAY? JUST...

TRMBL

TRMBL

TRMBL

TRMBL

TRMBL

?!

NUH...!

.....?

TRMBL

TRMBL

TRMBL

HM...?

SNIFF SNIFF

THERE'S THAT SMELL AGAIN.

SNIFF SNIFF

!

.....?

WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?

SNIFF SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

BZZ

FLASH

THERE IT IS!

BZZZZZT

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

IT'S FAMILIAR...

THIS FEELING...

SCRUNCH

ギュッ

I KNEW IT.

IS IT... GUILT?

HUH...?
H...
HEY.

WHY THE HELL...

ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE?

WH...

SO I WAS RIGHT. YOU'RE...

JUST LIKE ME.

TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
LIKE... YOU?
SCRUNCH
?!
WHAT COULD MAKE YOU FEEL SO GUILTY YOU'D KEEP DOING THIS TO YOURSELF?
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
G...G... GUILTY...

IN A CHILD'S HAND...

A SICKLE...

!

JUUUU

DON'T EVEN TH...!

GRAB

ガ"

ERGH ...!

YANK

YANK

YANK

YANK

I CAN BARELY MOVE!

AGH...

EUGH...

JOLT

HEY!!

!

AND A PINKY.

WITH A SICKLE...

SOME-THING HAPPENED IN YOUR CHILD-HOOD...

PSHHT

PSHHT

PSHHT

WHAT WAS IT? TELL ME!

AH!

OPEN UP!

WHP

.....!

ナイフ

SHWF

OWWWW!!!

FWIP

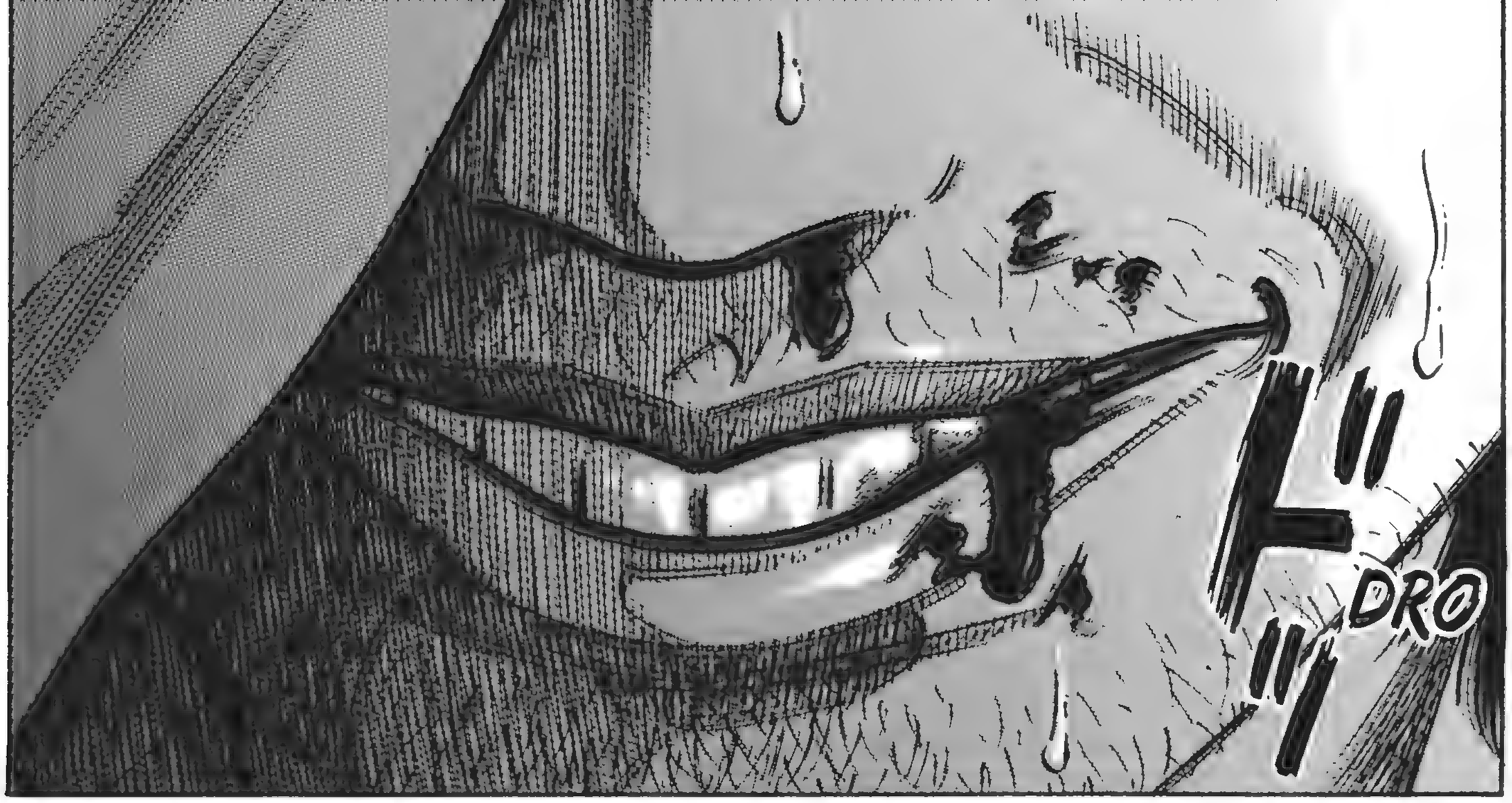
カラーン
KLAK

カラーン
KLATTA

HUH?

GWAM

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
.....
YOU... BASTARD...
UERGH!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!


F
DRO

F"
DRO
F"
DRO
F"
DRO
F"
DRO

LICK.

WH...WHY ARE YOU SMILING LIKE THAT?!

?!

BACK WHEN I WAS JUS' A KID...

A FRIEND? WHAT...?

I HAD THIS FRIEND, Y'SEE? KEN-CHAN.

.....

YOU THINK NOW'S THE TIME TO START TALKING ABOUT...?

SHVR ガ

SHVR ガ

SHVR ガ

SHVR ガ

SHVR ガ

!

THAT'S RIGHT.

HE WAS MY FRIEND.

AND I...

STRETCH

ONE DAY, I WAS WITH THAT FRIEND...

I DID SOMETHING UNSPEAK-ABLE TO HIM.

CLENCH

.....

ALL I DID WAS PUSH HIM A BIT. AS A JOKE, Y'KNOW?

WE WERE SCREWIN' AROUND ON OUR SKATE-BOARDS, AND I...

BUT KEN-CHAN... HE TOOK A REAL TUMBLE.

TH...

AND JUS' THEN, THIS...THIS TRUCK WAS PASSIN' BY, AND...

THAT SICKLE...

HIS PINKY...

H...

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

AND KEN-CHAN... HIS RIGHT LEG...

AH!

GOT RAN OVER!

M...MY FRIEND KEN-CHAN, Y'SEE... HE NEVER WALKED RIGHT AFTER THAT.

KAZUO-KUN...

I ACCI-
DENTALLY
C-CUT...

CUT
KAZUO-KUN'S
PINKY OFF!

THAT'S
RIGHT.

I...I
MESSED
UP, TOO!

I REMEMBER
NOW...

I RUINED
KEN-CHAN'S
FUCKIN'
LIFE!!

BLRSH

I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN' BY IT!

BUT Y'KNOW WHAT, KID?

YEAH...

UH-HUH.

THOSE WERE JUST ACCIDENTS! RIGHT?

WE DIDN'T *MEAN* T'HURT ANYONE.

AN' THE OTHER THING WAS...I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE, BUT I JUS' DIDN'T KNOW *HOW*, Y'KNOW?

HNGH...

GRIK...

GRK

ULIW...

IT AIN'T YOUR FAULT!!

GA-
SHANK

ワン
パン
ふり
ふり
ふり

KAZUO-KUN...

GA-SHNK

GA-SHNK

I'M SO SORRY...

FLOAT

KAZUO-KUN...

I'M SO SORRY...

GA-
SHANK

SORRY,
KAZUO-
KUN...

KEN-
CHAN...

K...

SORRY...

OH...

I'M SO SORRY...

UUW...
UW...

I JUST...

LEFT MY OLD FRIEND HIGH 'N' DRY... I INTENTIONALLY LET US DRIFT APART.

I NEVER *WAS* ABLE TO APOLOGIZE.

IT'S OKAY. I DID THE SAME THING.

HFF...

AAGH... NGH!

Ready?

Yup!
Ready!

One more time!
Ready?

HI
SHKK

Uh-huh!
Ready!

SHHK

WHEN IT HAPPENED, I WAS SO SCARED I COULDN'T SPEAK.

ALL I COULD DO WAS JUST... RUN AS FAR AS MY LEGS WOULD TAKE ME.

URHH...

THAT GUILT, THAT REGRET...

IT HAUNTED ME, DAY AFTER DAY AFTER DAY.

UNGH...

SO I CONVINCED MYSELF I WAS SOME KIND OF... **EXCEPTION.** I WAS *ALLOWED* TO HURT PEOPLE.

GNAWED AT ME. IT WAS LIKE A DEEP, DARK PIT. I COULDN'T STAND IT.

TO PROVE IT TO THE WORLD...

I HAD TO COMPLETELY PAINT OVER MY OLD GUILT. LAYER UPON LAYER.

WHEN I STARTED DOWN THAT PATH...I HURT SO MANY PEOPLE.

IF FRIENDSHIP LEADS TO SO MUCH PAIN AND REGRET...WHY BOTHER, I FIGURED. NEVER AGAIN.

MY LONELINESS IS SOMETHING I *CHOSE*. WITH MY OWN FREE WILL.

I...

I GET IT NOW!

I BECAME A YAKUZA... BECAUSE I WANTED TO CUT OFF FINGERS!

I DIDN'T CUT OFF ALL THOSE PEOPLE'S FINGERS BECAUSE I'M A YAKUZA...

"STARE"

SHF

THAT MIGHT JUST BE IT.

I SEE.

BOSS !!

WHAM

!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?!

YOU PIECE OF SHIT!!

GANK

カ!!

SHF...

HARADA...

YES, SIR?

BOSS?!

WHAT'D HE DO, SIR?

THIS IS MY LAST DAY AS A YAKUZA. I QUIT.

.....

I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN.

SORRY, BOYS.

WHAT?!

BUT...I HAVE JUST THE THING TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU.

OH.

YEAH, I GUESS CUTTING THAT THING OFF MIGHT BE FOR THE BEST.

ALL YOU BOYS I'VE MADE EXAMPLES OUT OF...

WATCH CLOSELY.

D...
DAMMIT.

I'M SHAKING SO HARD. I JUST CAN'T...PUT ANY MUSCLE INTO IT.

I'M SUCH A PUSSY.

.....

.....

SHWF

!

NOT THERE.

RIGHT HERE.

SHF

PAUSE

!

WHO WOULD'VE EXPECTED IT TO COME OFF MY OWN HAND?

MY SEVENTY-SEVENTH FINGER.

SEVENTY-SEVEN PEOPLE.

YOU'VE SUFFERED ENOUGH.

FLASH

SHHK

!

SO. WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE NOW?

NOTHING MUCH.

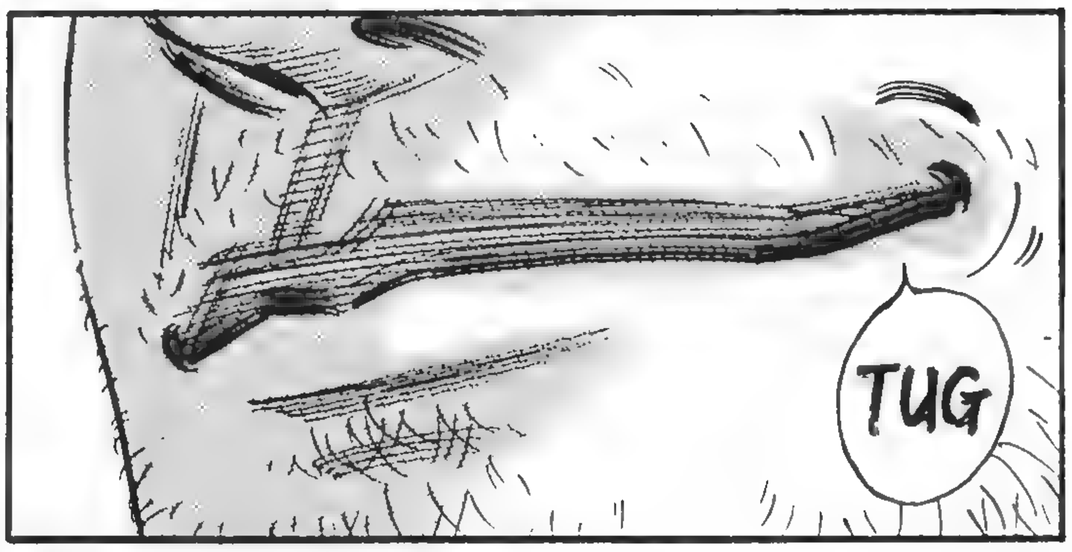
SHF

JUST SOME MIDDLE-AGED STRANGER.

YEAH? GO FIGURE...

ビデオ

SHWAP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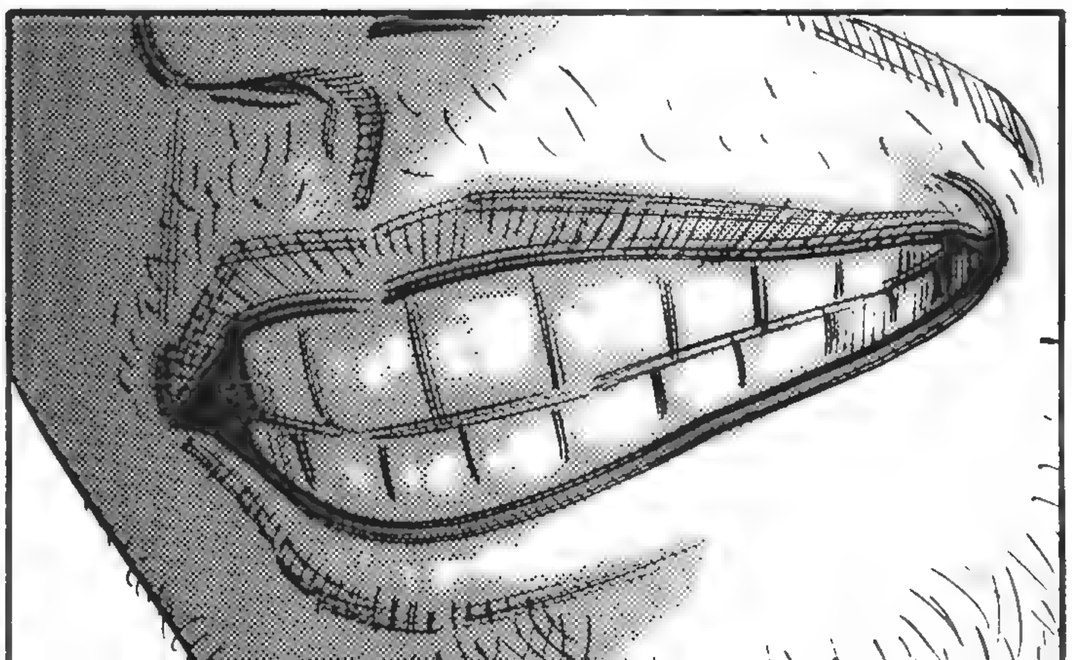


HEH... HEH HEH HEH HEH!!

PFFT... HEH HEH HEH!

HEH HEH HEH HEH ...!

バタン BA-TNK

ガチャ KA-CHK

KWAH

HA

HA

HA!

THAT DUMBASS REALLY JOINED THE YAKUZA OVER SUCH A TEENSY LITTLE SCREW-UP?!

THAT GUY WAS FRICKIN' HILARIOUS !!

HA HA HA HA!

WHAT A DAMN RIOT!

HEH HEH...

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!

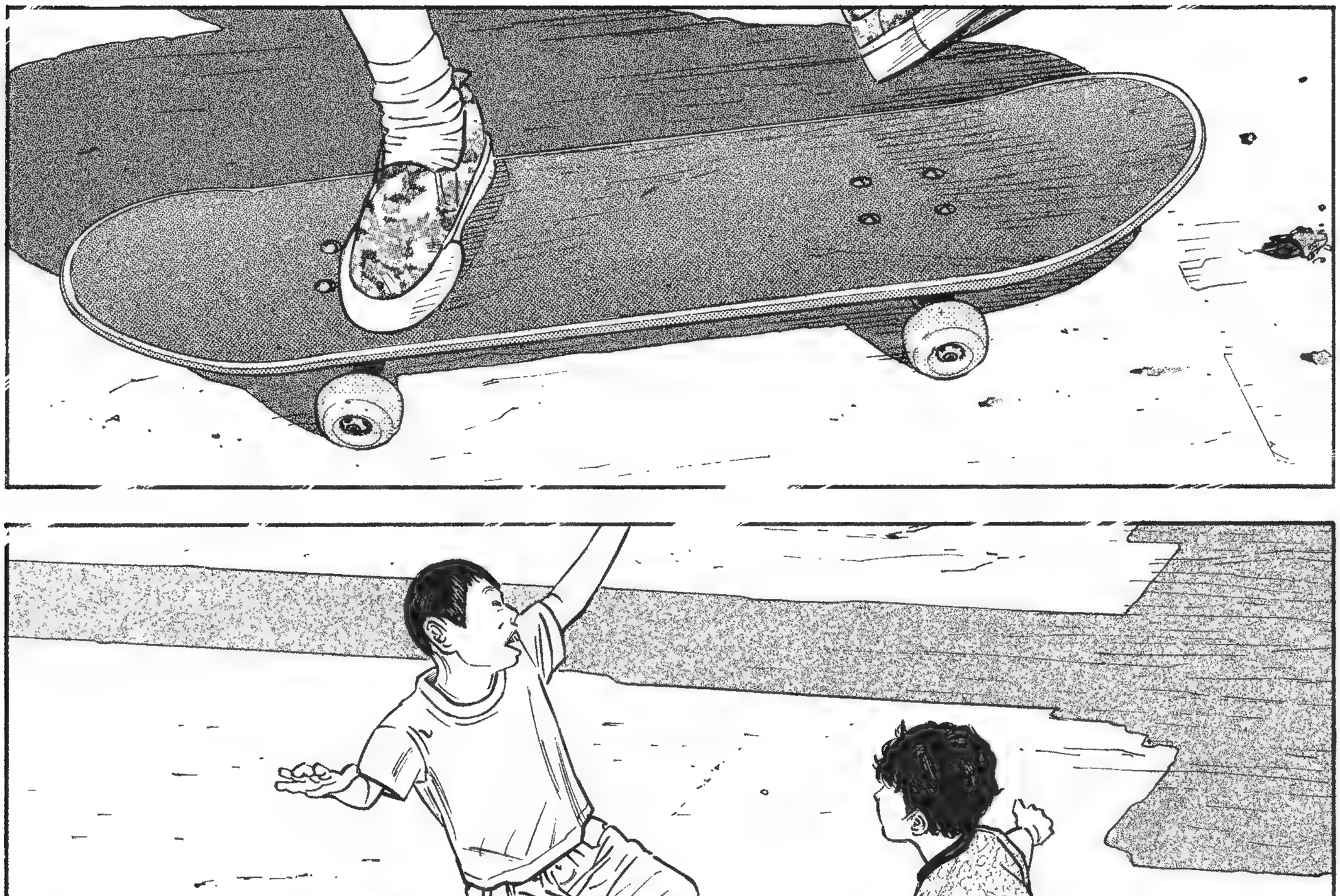
EUGH ...

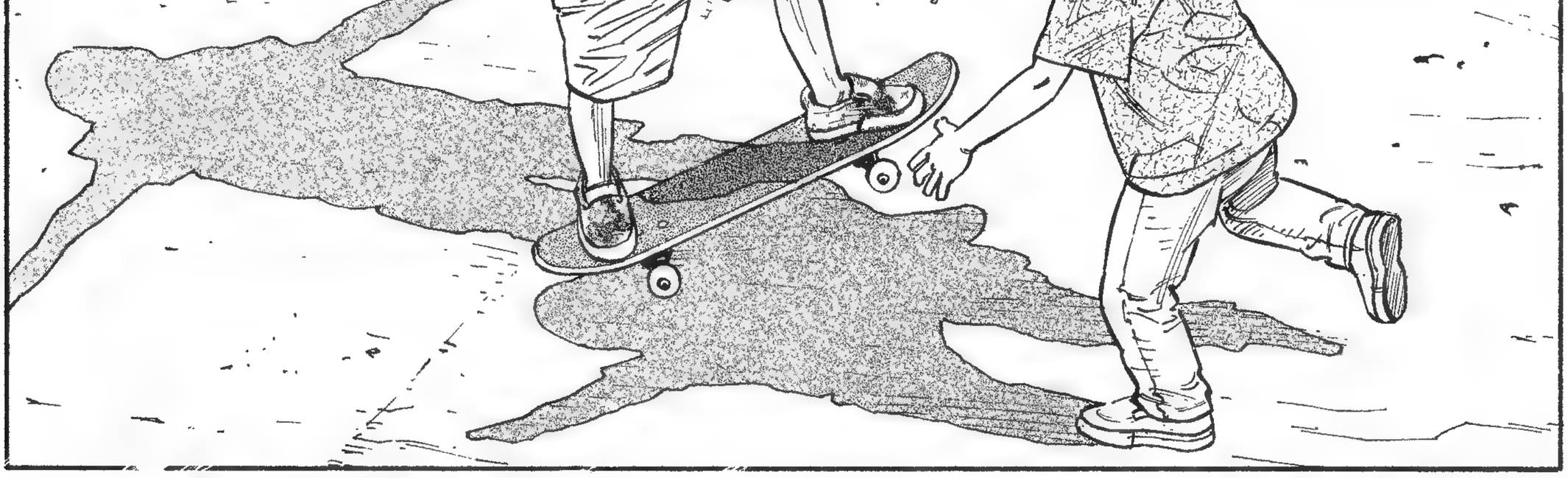
HEH...

WH...

WHAT IS THIS?

GHH...





7

RMB

RMB

RMB

TIME

PI
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PI
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ZZZ—

ZZZ—

ZZZ—

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

'M SORRY...

PI RO RO RO RO

I'M... SOR... RY...

MMBL

MMBL

MMBL

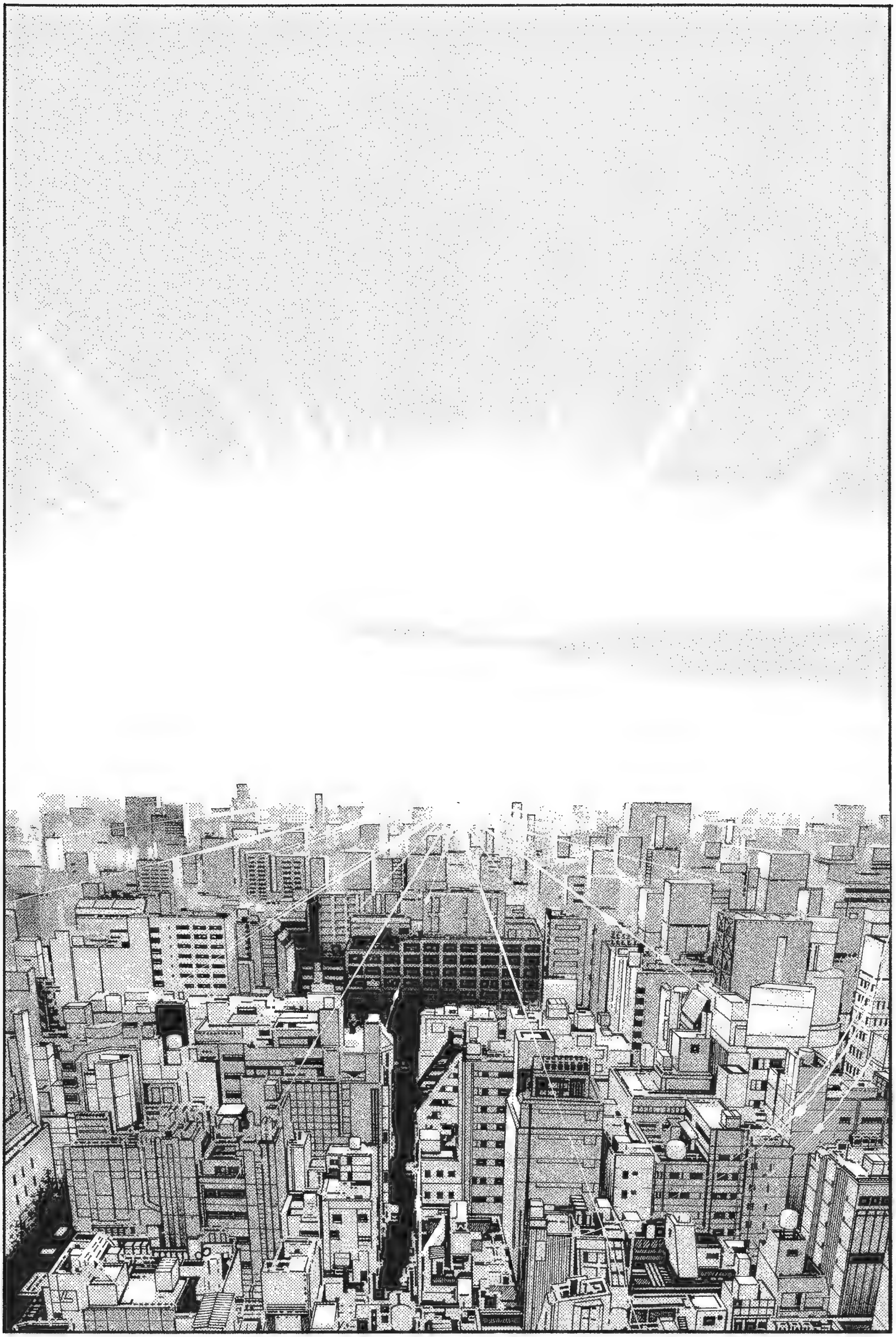
RMB ドゥ...

RMB ドゥ...

RMB ドゥ...

RMB ドゥ...

I'M SORRY.



WANTED
SUSPECTS

TIVO
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HELLO?

TIME
FWAHHHH...
PWOK

GRAB

HUH?!

NAKOSHI-SAN!!

(木) 16:02

話

秒

メニュー

P584iS

BA-TNK

……

SCOWL

ムス…！！

……

YEAH, I KNOW. I'M SORRY.

YOU TOTALLY STOOD ME UP YESTERDAY! I WAITED FOR YOU *FOREVER!!*

WHAT THE HECK, DUDE?!

AH!

SNAP

HIDING OUT. FAR AWAY FROM MONSTERS.

……

WHERE EVEN *WERE* YOU?

SHALL WE DISCUSS IT OVER SOME MORNING COFFEE?

I KNOW WHAT YOUR "MONSTERS" ARE NOW!

SPEAKING OF!

I JUST SLEPT REAL WELL. THAT'S ALL.

I'M GOOD.

!

WHOA--YOUR EYES ARE A BIT PUFFY, NAKOSHI-SAN. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

.....

IT'S TODAY'S THEME.

THE SCALES HAVE FALLEN FROM MY EYES. LIKE, *EUREKA!* YOU KNOW?

HOW 'BOUT YOU? WHAT'S WITH THOSE TEARDROP THINGS?

nside the robot?
use his right hand
e pinky of his left!

RUSTLE

OKEY DOKEY. FIRST AND FOREMOST, LET'S GET THIS OUT IN THE OPEN. WHAT YOU'RE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING IS IN NO WAY PARANORMAL...

?!

AND YOU CERTAINLY HAVEN'T GONE INSANE.

RSTL RSTL

THWMP

ドゥ

ドゥ

!.....

IT'S ALL SCIENTIFICALLY EXPLAINABLE. TO BE EXACT, IT'S MOSTLY PSYCHOLOGY.

TAP

HOMUN-CULI.

BAP

BAP

UH-HUH. THEN MIND TELLING ME WHAT THOSE THINGS ARE?

HOMLIN...

CLIE...

LIE...?

FOR THE PURPOSES OF OUR EXPERIMENT, HERE'S *MY* UNDER-STANDING OF THE TERM.

IF YOU LOOK IT UP ONLINE, YOU'LL SEE A LOT OF REFERENCES TO "ARTIFICIAL HUMANS" AND WHATNOT...

FWIP

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

KLAKA KLAKA KLAKA KLAKA KLAKA

IN MY *BRAIN?*

THE LITTLE ME...

K
L
A
K

PRECISELY!

IN THE MODERN ERA, WHEN WE SAY "HOMUNCULUS"...

KLAKA KLAKA KLAKA KLAKA

WE'RE USUALLY TALKING ABOUT THE **LITTLE YOU** INSIDE YOUR BRAIN.

TAKE A LOOK.

!

WHAT THE HELL IS...?

……?

THIS, IN NEUROLOGY, IS WHAT'S REFERRED TO AS A "SENSORY HOMUNCULUS."

BUT THAT FEELING OF "COLD"...

IT'S ACTUALLY NOT YOUR FINGERS EXPERIENC-ING IT.

WELL, YEAH.

IF YOU TOUCHED THIS GLASS, IT WOULD FEEL COLD, RIGHT?

SNAP

THE POINT IS!

IT'S YOUR BRAIN.

OH, COME ON. EVEN *I* KNOW THAT.

LIKE, THERE'S A PART OF THE BRAIN DEDICATED TO PARSING DATA FROM THE FINGERS?

SOMEWHERE IN YOUR BRAIN, YOU'VE GOT A *SECOND SET OF FINGERTIPS.*

TAP TAP

KLAK

EXACTLY.

THE BODY'S SENSES ARE MAPPED OUT ON THE SURFACE OF THE BRAIN.

FLASH

FACE
LIPS
THUMBS
HANDS
PHARYNX
TORSO
LEGS
GENITALS

CE

TORSO

PHARYNX

THAT'S THE "FINGER" AREA RIGHT THERE. SEE?

THAT'S RIGHT!

HANDS AND LIPS SURE TAKE UP A LOTTA SPACE.

BIP

WE'D GET THIS.

AND SO, IF WE WERE TO GIVE A REAL BODY THESE PROPOR-TIONS...

KLAK

.....

I MEAN...PARDON MY BLUNTNESS, BUT THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT OF SEX, ISN'T IT?

WHEN A HUMAN WANTS TO *FEEL* A PHYSICAL OBJECT, TO *REEEALLY* GET UP IN THERE--THEY USE THEIR HANDS AND MOUTH, RIGHT?

THIS HOMUNCULUS ONLY REPRESENTS A HUMAN'S SENSE OF *TOUCH.*

OF COURSE NOT.

BUT NONE OF THE FREAKA-ZOIDS I'VE BEEN SEEING LOOK LIKE THIS.

TOK TOK

AND TOUCH ISN'T THE ONLY SENSE WE USE TO PERCEIVE THE WORLD.

HEARING.

SIGHT.

TASTE.

SMELL.

TO COLLECT DATA ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND US.

HUMANS USE **ALL FIVE** OF THESE SENSES...

OVER TIME, OUR EXPERIENCES SOLIDIFY IN OUR BRAINS AS MEMORIES, RIGHT?

GATHERING SENSORY DATA.

THAT'S WHAT "EXPERIENCE" IS ALL ABOUT, REALLY.

EXPERI-ENCE, HUH?

WELL, IF WE TAKE THOSE **MEMORIES**, THOSE LITTLE MOMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN CARVED INTO OUR GREY MATTER, AND MAP *THEM* ONTO A HUMAN BODY...

TAP

TAP

WE GET A REAL, LIVE HOMUNCULUS.

A little boy inside the robot? He's trying to use his right hand to cut off the pinky of his left!

I'LL PUT IT INTO LAYMAN'S TERMS.

THIS IS KINDA CONFUSING.

AND THEY APPEAR TO YOU IN THE FORM OF MONSTERS. OF **HOMUNCULI.**

THAT PEOPLE HAVE BURIED DEEP INSIDE THEM-SELVES.

IN ESSENCE, YOU'RE SEEING THE TWISTED DISTORTIONS OF THE SOUL...

TO GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE ...

FWIP

DISTOR-TIONS OF THE SOUL...?

AFTER YOU AND I PARTED YESTERDAY, I HAD A NICE, LONG CHAT WITH HER.

!

REMEMBER THAT OLD LADY? OUR NECKLESS MONSTER?

FWIP

No neck!

I DUNNO. IT WAS LIKE HER NECK WAS SICK OR SOMETHING.

WHAT GAVE YOU THAT IMPRESSION?

YOU SAID YOU FELT AS IF SHE WERE "PROTECTING HER NECK," DIDN'T YOU?

.....!

THAT OLD WOMAN USED TO BE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP. HER PARTNER OFTEN CHOKED HER.

SHIP

AND THE SENSATION OF SOMETHING TOUCHING HER NECK IS EVEN WORSE. HITS A FULL-ON PANIC BUTTON.

EVEN HEARING THE *WORD* "NECK" IS UPSETTING TO HER.

BUT NO NECKLACE. NO PENDANT, NO PEARLS, NOTHING.

FURTHERMORE, THAT OLD LADY IS PART OF THE NOUVEAU RICHE, AND LOVES PRECIOUS METALS.

DID YOU NOTICE? SHE WAS COVERED HEAD TO FOOT IN SHINY STUFF. RINGS, EARRINGS...

.....

No neck!

AND THAT'S WHY YOU PERCEIVE HER LIKE *THIS.*

ON SOME INSTINCTIVE LEVEL...

SHE REALLY IS PROTECTING HER NECK.

!

THE POINT TO REMEMBER HERE IS THAT IT ISN'T *PHYSICAL* INJURIES OR PAIN THAT MANIFEST INTO HOMUNCULI.

SLRRRRP

ズズズズ…

THOSE ARE WHAT MANIFEST INTO THE HOMUNCULI YOU'VE BEEN SEEING. IT'S ALL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERVERSIONS.

YOU DON'T SAY.

THESE PEOPLE ARE CARRYING AROUND *EMOTIONAL* SCARS.

?!

OH, ALSO.

NOW, MOVING ONTO THIS FLOPPY GUY OVER HERE...

OKAY...

FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PEOPLE, SO THIS IS PURE CONJECTURE.

PLEASE TAKE WHAT I SAY FROM HERE ON OUT WITH A PINCH OF SALT.

Becomes thin and wobbly.

Maybe two centimeters thick?

THIS GUY IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THAT.

TAP

ON THE OUTSIDE, HE'S OVER-WEIGHT.

Becomes thin and wobbly

THINK OF IT THIS WAY. SOME PEOPLE HAVE NO GUTS, NO SPINES...NO *SUBSTANCE* TO THEM, RIGHT?

.....!

BUT THAT'S JUST BECAUSE HE EATS A LOT TO COMPENSATE FOR HOW THIN AND EMPTY HE IS ON THE INSIDE.

HE WAS PRETTY HUGE...

EVERYONE HAS A CERTAIN IMAGE OF THEMSELVES IN THEIR HEADS. IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MATCH UP WITH THEIR ACTUAL APPEARANCE.

IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW THE PERSON FEELS ABOUT THEMSELVES ON THE *INSIDE*.

SURE. BUT AGAIN, THAT'S NOT WHAT MATTERS.

SHP

BLINK

.....?

!

SO HOW COME WHEN I PICTURE MYSELF...

ALL I SEE IS THE SAME FACE AS IN THE MIRROR?

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT **SUB-CONSCIOUS** IMAGES.

BY "HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF" ...

SNAP

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MAKES THIS SO TRICKY.

SUBCON-
SCIOUS?

OKAY...

YOU MIGHT SHOW UP AS SOME GROTESQUE CARICATURE OF YOURSELF.

YOU MIGHT FLY, OR YOUR SKIN MIGHT MELT OFF YOUR BONES...

THE PLACE YOUR *TRUE* SELF ALWAYS WINDS UP... IS IN YOUR **DREAMS.**

!

I GETCHA.

AHH.

Her hips sp
but
aroun
oth
pa

LHA

sophi
made-up
heavily
loud,
nose
of

six
ound
an
ut

!

PLAP

TAKE THIS GIRL HERE, THE ONE SLICED INTO RINGS. SHE'S A SYMBOL OF THE MODERN WORLD.

THE SECOND SHE TAKES SOMEONE'S CALL...

THE PART OF HER BODY THAT CORRESPONDS TO THAT PHONE STARTS SPINNING FURIOUSLY.

LET'S ASSUME THIS GIRL HAS SIX DIFFERENT PHONES, ONE FOR EACH SLICE OF HER BODY.

SHE'S ALMOST LIKE A LIVING DOLL, PAWNING OFF HER INDIVIDUAL BODY PARTS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR A QUICK BUCK.

WAS THAT NIGHT'S SPECIAL OFFER, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

.....

AND THIS...

TAP

TAP.

SEES HERSELF AS SOME KIND OF **MODERN MANNEQUIN.**

SOMEWHERE, DEEP IN HER SUBCONSCIOUS, THIS GIRL...

IN THE END, MONEY AND SEX ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT CAN MAKE HER FEEL REAL.

.....

NOW, THIS YAKUZA BOSS...

NO

FLIP

!

JUST A MESS.

THIS GUY MUST BE A REAL PIECE OF WORK.

IF I HAD TO GUESS...

THERE WAS SOME SORT OF INCIDENT INVOLVING A PINKY AND SOMETHING SHARP.

WHEN HE WAS A CHILD...

HE'S BEEN PUTTING UP WALLS TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM HIMSELF. FORCE FIELDS TO RIVAL ANY CHILDHOOD ROLEPLAY GAME.

AND EVER SINCE...

.....

UNTIL HE BECAME A GIANT ROBOT.

TO PUT UP SO MANY WALLS AND MAKE THEM SO THICK...

SOMETHING MUST'VE MADE HIM THINK HE HAD NO CHOICE BESIDES ISOLATION.

ANY IDEAS?

!

DUNNO. MAYBE.

SIP...

...ｽｽｲｯ

YOU CAN LITERALLY *SEE* THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTORTIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE, NAKOSHI-SAN!!

DON'T YOU GET IT? SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING IS GOING ON INSIDE OF YOU RIGHT NOW!

CAN YOU AT LEAST PRETEND TO CARE?

UGH, COME ON!

.....

I'M JEALOUS!

?!

BUT THESE DISTORTIONS, THESE... *MONSTERS*... LET'S SAY I WANT THEM GONE.

HOW DO I DO THAT?

ALL RIGHT, SURE. I SEE DISTORTIONS. I GET THAT PART.

KTNK

HOW DO I REMOVE THE DISTORTION THAT *CAUSES* THESE THINGS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WANT THEM GONE? YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO...

NO.

GET RID OF YOUR SIGHT?

YUP.

IT'S NOT THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THESE HOMUNCULI. IT'S THAT YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO *EXIST*. YES?

I SEE.

THINK OF A HOMUNCULUS AS BEING LIKE AN IKIRYO,* A "LIVING GHOST."

*A creature in Japanese mythology said to be sent out of a living person due to intense feelings of love, hate, et cetera.

PRECISELY.

RSTL

A LIVING GHOST?

TWIRL

SORRY, THIS MAY GET TECHNICAL. FROM A PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC PERSPECTIVE...

SHWP

SO, IN THIS METAPHOR, IN ORDER TO EXORCIZE THESE GHOSTS...

WE HAVE TO REMOVE THE DISTORTION THAT CREATES THEM. STRAIGHTEN OUT THE MIND. TO DO THAT...

FWIP

!

……?

SKRT

SKRT

CONSCIOUS

SUBCONSCIOUS

LET'S SAY THIS IS A PERSON. IMAGINE THEY'RE MADE OF TWO PARTS, THE CONSCIOUS AND THE SUBCONSCIOUS.

DAMN, THE SUBCON-SCIOUS IS HUGE.

IT IS. ONE THEORY CLAIMS THAT THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND CONTROLS **NINETY-FIVE PERCENT** OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR.

HEAD

CONSCIOUS

SKRIIK

I SUPPOSE YOU CAN SIMPLIFY IT AS THE "HEAD" AND THE "HEART."

HEART

SUBCONSCIOUS

HEART

SUBCONSCIOUS

DAD

FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY THIS PERSON...

SECRETLY RESENTS THEIR FATHER.

?!

TAK

カ

THEY'VE TALKED THEMSELF INTO THINKING THAT THEY *LOVE* THEIR FATHER.

TAK TAK

CONSCIOUS

HEAD

BUT IN THEIR HEAD...

THEY SHOVE THAT SECRET FEELING AS DEEP INTO THE SUBCONSCIOUS AS POSSIBLE.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS... *WHAM!*

NOW WE HAVE A CONTRADICTION.

HM.

HEART

SUBCONSCIOUS

~~DAD~~

DAD

CRYOGENICALLY FREEZE IT, AND LET IT SINK INTO THE BOWELS OF THEIR SUBCONSCIOUS. GET IT?

IT'S SORT OF LIKE THEY TAKE THAT SECRET HATRED FOR THEIR FATHER...

SKRIIK SKRIIK

THEY COMPLETELY FORGET...

THE FEELING EVEN EXISTS.

THE DEEPER IT GOES...

THE HARDER IT BECOMES TO CONSCIOUSLY THINK ABOUT. IN TIME...

TAP

TAP

PRECISELY.

SO IT'S REPRESSED? LIKE A TRAUMATIC MEMORY?

!

TAK

TAK

HEART

SUBCONSCIOUS

DAD

DAD

NOW, KEEP IN MIND THAT MR. OR MS. DADDY ISSUES HERE HASN'T FIXED THEIR PROBLEMS. THEY'VE JUST HIDDEN THEM.

IN SOME DARK PART OF THEIR MIND, WHERE THEIR SUBCONSCIOUS CAN'T SEE, THEY'RE STILL IN CONSTANT CONFLICT.

SKRIIK ≠
SKRIIK^2 ≠ $\frac{1}{2}$
≠ $\frac{1}{2}$ SKRIIK
≠ $\frac{1}{2}$ SKRIIK
≠ $\frac{1}{4}$ SKRIIK

ANY NUMBER OF NERVOUS DISORDERS MIGHT MANIFEST WITHOUT THEM EVER KNOWING WHY.

BULIMIA, OBSESSIVE THOUGHTS, A FEAR OF EYE CONTACT...

THIS INNER CONFLICT CAN LEAD TO ALL *KINDS* OF STRANGE SYMPTOMS.

CONSCIOUS

HEART

SUBCONSCIOUS

DAD

.....!

WOULD THAT DISTORTION STILL NOT GO AWAY?

WHAT ABOUT WHEN THEY GROW UP? WHAT IF THEY START TO UNDERSTAND THEIR OLD MAN'S POINT OF VIEW, MAYBE EVEN LIKE HIM FOR REAL?

!

THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT A "LIVING GHOST."

AND NOW IT WANDERS AIMLESSLY INSIDE THEIR SUBCONSCIOUS.

BUT THOSE ANCIENT FEELINGS ARE STILL FROZEN DEEP INSIDE THEM.

CONSCIOUS

HEART

SUBCONSCIOUS

THEY MAY HAVE WARMED UP TO THEIR FATHER...

ON THE INSIDE, THAT EMOTION IS STILL JUST AS INTENSE AS IT WAS WHEN THEY FIRST FELT IT...

SKRR

SKR

SKRT

.....

LIKE ANY LOST SOUL, OUR "GHOST" IS SEEKING A CHANCE TO PASS ON TO THE OTHER SIDE-- WHICH WOULD MEAN FORCING THEM TO REGAIN AWARENESS.

SO HOW DO I PERFORM THE EXORCISM, THEN?

OKAY...

DRAG IT UP BACK INTO THEIR CONSCIOUS MIND, AND THEN...

SKR SKRT

HEAD

ONSCIOUS

HEART

SUBCONSCIOUS

HEAD

CONSCIOUS

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE THIS FROZEN FEELING AT THE BOTTOM HERE...

HEART

SUBCONSCIOUS

THAT PART'S EASY.

TWIRL

n

LET IT THAW.

IN OTHER WORDS, AS LONG AS YOU CAN MAKE THEM FEEL IT AGAIN, YOU SHOULD BE SET.

NORMALLY, FINDING IT IS QUITE THE TASK.

KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS DISTORTION IS BURIED SO DEEPLY THAT EVEN THE PERSON EXPERIENCING IT DOESN'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.

AND, TO BE FRANK, MOST ATTEMPTS NEVER ACTUALLY FIND ANYTHING.

IT TAKES A LOT OF TIME FOR THERAPISTS TO DIG UP THIS SORT OF THING IN A PERFECT STRANGER.

?!

FWP

ヒト…

ALL *YOU* HAVE TO DO IS THIS, AND YOU SEE IT.

BUT YOU...

Maybe [illegible] centimeters thick?

One of those loud, heavily made-up types.

Her hips spin around, but no other part does.

TO AN IKIRYO, YOU'RE BASICALLY THE MESSIAH.

A little boy inside the robot? He's trying to use his right hand to cut off the pinky of his left!

.....

OR MAYBE MORE LIKE A SHAMAN.

THIS IS SO CREEPY. HAVING A SIXTH SENSE SUCKS.

GOOD GRIEF.

NAKOSHI-SAN, I DON'T THINK YOU QUITE UNDERSTAND.

YOU HAVEN'T GAINED A *LITERAL* SIXTH SENSE.

?!

YOU'RE STILL USING THE SAME FIVE SENSES YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD.

THEY'VE JUST BEEN SHARPENED TO AN UNUSUAL DEGREE.

GLANCE

AND PIECE THEM TOGETHER INTO AN EXCEPTIONALLY PRECISE IMAGE OF THE WORLD.

HUMAN SENSES CAN TAKE IN A WIDE VARIETY OF DATA POINTS...

OR A MUSCLE TWITCHES EVEN MINUTELY IN THEIR FACE...

IF A SINGLE MUSCLE EXPANDS OR CONTRACTS...

IF THEY SHIFT THEIR WEIGHT...

IF A PERSON GETS SLIGHTLY TENSE...

STARE...

REALLY, IF THEY DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, WE NOTICE.

AND WE NOTICE THE MYRIAD INTERNAL FEELINGS THAT *CAUSE* THOSE TINY MOVEMENTS, TOO.

TO DESIRE.

TO JOY...

FROM ANXIETY TO RAGE...

WITH EVERY SHIFT IN A PERSON'S EMOTIONAL STATE, THEY BROADCAST A SLEW OF SUBTLE TELLS...

.....

WHICH THE REST OF US PICK UP ON WITHOUT EVEN NOTICING OURSELVES DOING SO.

THEY'RE HAPPY, RIGHT?

AND SAY "THANK YOU!" WITH A BIG OLE GRIN.

SAY SOMEONE IS GIVEN A PRESENT. THEY OPEN IT...

OR IS THIS A PRESENT THEY'RE NOT ACTUALLY THAT THRILLED WITH? WELL, SOMEHOW...

BUT ARE THEY *REALLY* HAPPY, DEEP DOWN?

THE SUBTLE THINGS ADD UP.

TRUE.

EVEN IF THE SMILE ITSELF LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME.

THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM CAN TELL.

MOST PEOPLE SHRUG OFF WHAT THEY'RE REALLY DOING. THEY SAY, "OH, I COULD JUST TELL," OR "HE JUST HAD THAT VIBE, YOU KNOW?"

AND THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM ABSORB THAT INFORMATION LIKE SPONGES...

BUT IT'S NOTHING SO VAGUE AS THAT. THE TRUTH IS, THE RECEIVER OF THE GIFT IS LEAKING A *HUGE* AMOUNT OF INFORMATION...

USING ALL FIVE OF THEIR SENSES.

チラ…

GLANCE

TRADING SECRET DATA WITH ONE ANOTHER...

THUS, THOUGH WE'RE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF IT, WE HUMANS ARE BOTH INTERROGATORS AND INTERROGATEES...

THROUGH OUR TIGHT, FAKE SMILES.

ALL WHILE SPEWING PRETTY, SHALLOW WORDS...

DISGUSTING CREATURES, AREN'T WE?

.....!

!

.....

!

KNOW WHAT ELSE?

THE CHILDREN OF OUR SPECIES HAVE MUCH SHARPER SENSES THAN THE ADULTS. BY *FAR.*

MY SENSES, MY ABILITY TO "FEEL," ARE STRONGER NOW? IS THAT IT?

SO, NOW THAT THERE'S A HOLE IN MY SKULL...

AND MY BRAIN IS CLOSER TO HOW IT WAS AS A CHILD...

KIDS EVERY-WHERE WOULD SEE THINGS LIKE THIS.

TAP

TAP

BUT IF THAT WERE ALL IT WAS...

THAT'S PART OF IT, CERTAINLY.

I FIGURED.

THAT'S NOT THE CASE, SO THERE MUST BE MORE.

I THINK THAT'S WHY, THOUGH YOU'RE RECEIVING THE SAME AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AS A CHILD, YOU'RE ABLE TO PIECE IT TOGETHER INTO THESE COHESIVE IMAGES.

NAKOSHI-SAN... YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THAT CHILDREN LACK.

VOILÀ! THE TRUTH MATERIALIZES BEFORE YOU IN THE FORM OF THESE SURREAL CARICATURES. THESE HOMUNCULI.

INDEED. YOUR BRAIN PIECES IT ALL TOGETHER, AND...

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, HUH?

THAT'S IT?

A little boy inside the robot? He's trying to use his right hand to cut off

パチン SNAP

.....

!

……

……

GULP...

!

SHWP

GULP
GULP
GULP

GRAB

CLUNK

BUT WHY...

WHY DO ONLY *SOME* PEOPLE LOOK LIKE MONSTERS...

AND SOME OF THEM ARE NORMAL?

BA-
DMP...

AWW, DON'T BE COY. DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW FULL WELL, DON'T YOU?

THESE HOMUNCULI ...

ARE ACTUALLY YOURSELF.

I KNOW.

IN THE END, THEIR DISTORTIONS ...

ARE THE SAME AS MY OWN.

REFLECTS THE WORLD AROUND US. BUT IT GOES BOTH WAYS. JUST AS THE WORLD IS REFLECTED IN OUR EYES...

A HUMAN EYEBALL...

OURSELVES UPON THE WORLD AROUND US.

WE PROJECT...

.....

IT'S NOT JUST...

THAT *YOU'RE* LOOKING AT THE HOMUNCULI.

GLRB BLB

BLRBL...

THE HOMUNCULI ...

ARE LOOKING RIGHT BACK AT YOU.

STARE

CLENCH

SO WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT?

.....

Maybe two centimeters thick?

THESE GOD DAMN MONSTERS ...

SPLISH

SPLISH

SPLISH

SPLISH

RUB RUB

WHAT THE HELL *IS* THAT THING?! IT'S LIKE IT'S MADE OF WATER!

SKRIK

DAMMIT!

SHRK

DAMMIT!

AND I'M S'POSED TO BELIEVE THAT THING IS SOMEHOW *ME*?!

!

WHUH?!

FWP

SHWF

.....?

SHWF

PLAP

!!!

M...

MY HAND...

I'M A CYBORG?!

KLANG

KLANG

KLANG

.....

.....!

WHY DID THAT YAKUZA BOSS'S ROBO-ARM TRANSFER TO *ME*?
WH... *WHY?*

DMP

DMP

DMP

DMP

!

HEY!

WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER?

YOU'RE SOAKED IN SWEAT...

!

HUH?

SHLUP

.....

NAKOSHI-SAN...?

I'M JUST... A LITTLE WORKED UP. THIS IS A LOT TO TAKE IN.

I'M FINE.

SHWP

.....

THEY CAN'T CAUSE YOU ANY HARM.

ALL THAT'S CHANGED IS YOUR ABILITY TO SEE THEM.

!

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.

GOOD TO KNOW.

TWITCH

?!

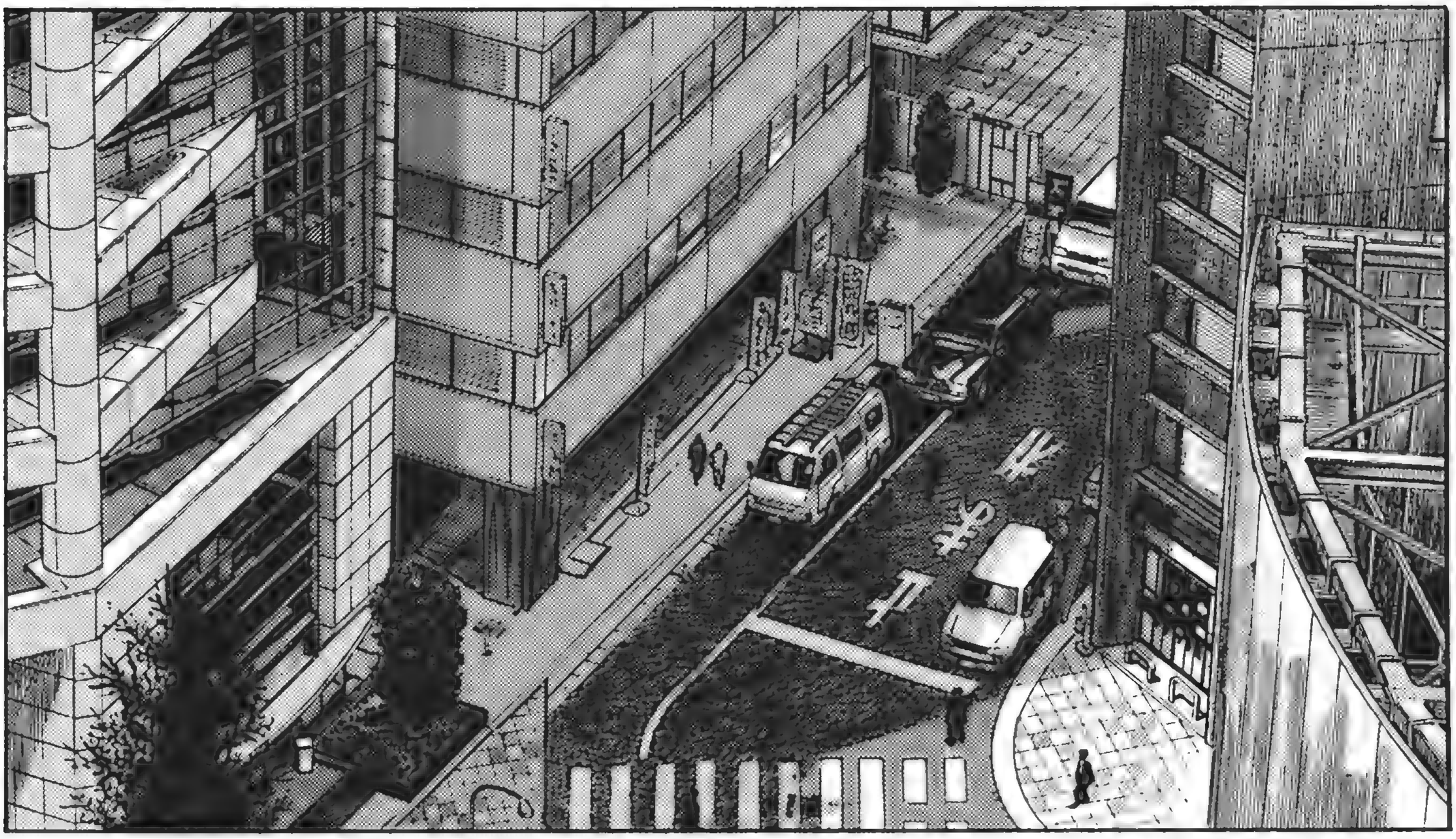
SNAP

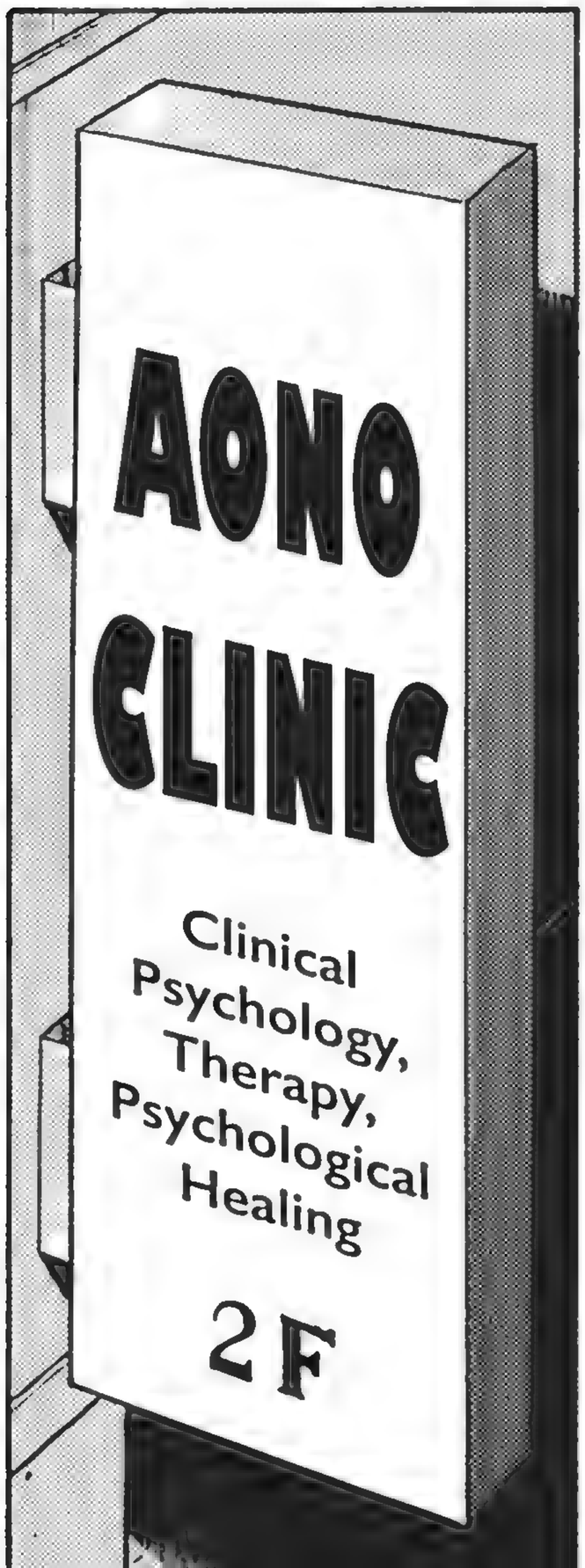
FINE.

LET'S GIVE THIS NEW SUPERPOWER OF YOURS A TEST-DRIVE, SHALL WE?

NOW THEN!

.....




AONO
CLINIC
Clinical
Psychology,
Therapy,
Psychological
Healing
2F

青野クリニック 2F
心療内科 精神科 神経科
G4B
Kitchen & Bar
海鮮料理
昼定食

ANY PSY-CHOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES, THIS IS WHERE THEY GET CHECKED OUT.

THE MENTALLY ILL COME HERE. IF A PERSON IS SHOWING...

!

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

THIS IS A PSYCHO-THERAPY CLINIC RUN BY A SENPAI OF MINE.

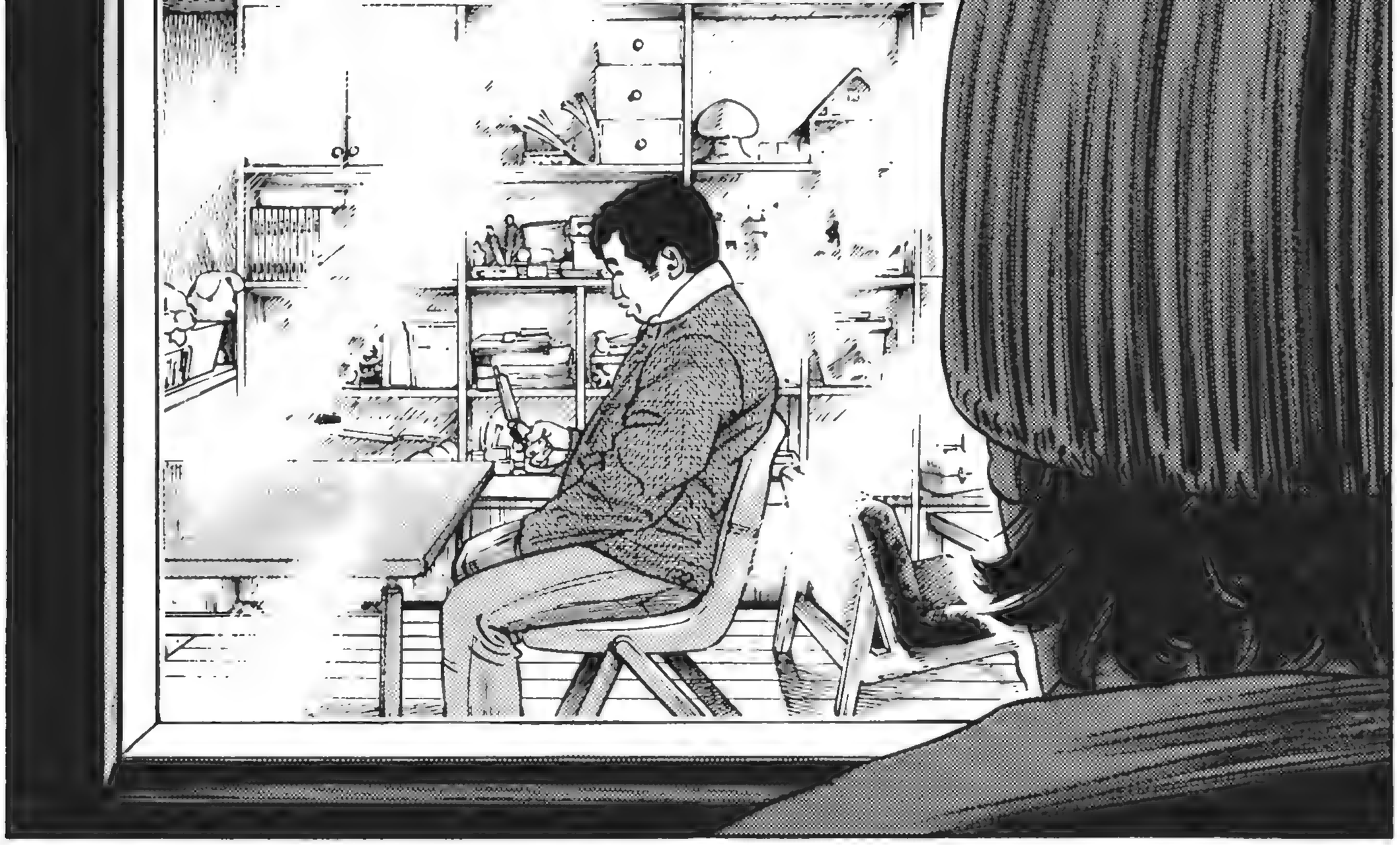
IN *YOUR* CASE, I GUESS IT'S MORE LIKE AN ASSEMBLY OF YOUR PEERS.

THOUGH ...

SHWF

?!

.....



SORRY, SENPAI.

I KNOW I'M ASKING A LOT.

NO KIDDING!

YOU DO REALIZE HOW MANY RULES I'M BREAKING HERE, RIGHT? WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LET OUTSIDERS SEE OUR PATIENTS, ONE-WAY MIRROR OR NOT.

Patient No.

Name

DOB

Address

Minamita

October 14, 19

South

TEL 090-

Antibiotics + −

Avoid

COMIN' IN HERE ASKING TO GAWK AT OUR PATIENTS OUT OF NOWHERE...

WHAT KINDA HAREBRAINED SCHEME IS IT THIS TIME?

.....

WELL ...

JUST WATCH. YOU'LL SEE.

GLANCE

.....

!!

HOW'S YOUR OLD MAN DOING? IS HE ALL RIGHT?

ITO...

TAP TAP

HE'S JUST FINE.

OH.

HEALTH-WISE, I MEAN.

?!

!

BLB

BLRBL

ВЗГ-ЕЗ

ВЗ-ЗВ ...

ЗЗЗ...

ЗЗ-ЗЗ ...

.....ɔ.

WHY'S HE DOING THAT THING WITH HIS HAND?

!

BY THE WAY...WHAT'S THIS GUY'S DEAL?

THIS MAN RIGHT HERE COULD BE AS CLOSE AS WE'LL EVER GET...

TO A GENUINE SUPERHUMAN.

HOW'S IT GOING?

SO, NAKOSHI-SAN?

WHAT?

DO YOU SEE ANY-THING?

STARE

……?!

NOPE. NOT A THING.

WHAT THE HELL ARE...?

HUH ...?

SENPAI, WOULD YOU SHOW US THE NEXT PERSON, PLEASE?

Medical Record

WHAT, CAN HE *SEE* PEOPLE'S HEARTS OR SOMETHING?

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

紅・結・口・共・(国)・老健・生保・生保・

ent No. 234

April 16, 19

Tokyo City, Shibuya

TEL 03-

Address

Avoid

Antibiotics +
Pyrine +
WaR
HBs
HCV

負担割合

Diagnosis

Depression

Insomnia

I'M THE ONE WHO PASSED THE NATIONAL EXAM. THESE ARE *MY* PATIENTS, UNDER *MY* SUPERVISION.

I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN STUDYING PSYCHOTHER-APY FOR YEARS.

THIS GUY THINKS HE CAN COME IN HERE WITH SOME WOO-WOO MUMBO-JUMBO AND JUST...

!

SHUT THE HELL UP!

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?

OOOH, SCARY!

NOTHING.

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING IN THIS GUY, EITHER.

HEH HEH HEH HEH ...

.....

HE LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME.

YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU CAN JUST SEE THE INSIDE OF SOMEONE'S HEAD AT A GLANCE?

OF *COURSE* HE DOES!

SURE WOULD MAKE MY JOB EASIER, TELL YA THAT MUCH.

I *WISH* IT WERE THAT EASY.

.....

!

HEY, PAL. MAYBE WE SHOULD BE TAKING A LOOK AT *YOU.*

GLARE

WE TAKE INSUR-ANCE.

HRFF!
HRFF!
HRFF!
HRFF!
GOVT
.....
.....!

WHINE

WH...

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

?!

KLATA

.....

.....

NAKOSHI-SAN!

I'M OUTTA HERE.

FWP

I DON'T FEEL WELL.

BA-TNK

HOW STRANGE.

!

I THOUGHT A PSYCH WARD WOULD BE THE PERFECT PLACE TO FIND PEOPLE WHO RESONATE WITH YOU.

A LAP DOG, HUH?

HRFF!

HRFF!

HRFF!

.....

THE HELL KINDA PLACE IS THIS?

SAILOR BLUE
WALK IN: FREE
¥4000

2F

SAILOR BLUE
WALK IN: FREE
¥4000
ENTRY

HERE IT IS. OUR NEXT STOP.

?

LET'S CONTINUE WITH THE ONE-WAY MIRROR COURSE TODAY.

.....?

THIS IS THEIR WATERING HOLE.

A PLACE WHERE MODERN HOMUNCULI, NEW-GEN MONSTERS, GATHER IN **DROVES.**

IF YOU WANT TO PURCHASE SOMETHING NOT ADVERTISED, ASK A STAFF MEMBER! WE MAY BE ABLE TO

BLOOMERS!
FOR CUSTOMERS WITH THOSE SORTS OF TASTES, WE OFFER

SHSHE'S SO CLOSE!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE TWO GIRLS, ONE ON EITHER SIDE, THEN

"GIRL NUMBER [ ] IS A NEWBIE. IN THE EVENT THAT YOU ORDER HER, PLEASE

.....

THANKS TO THE ONE-WAY MIRROR, THEY CAN'T SEE US AT ALL.

First and forem... is possible, however. All uniforms are for viewing purposes only and are not for sale.

Viewing time: five minutes (School/gym uniform) ¥40C

Swimsuit viewing time: five Mi... (Bikini or school swimsuit)....¥6C

Note: you may only watch the gir... get changed through frosted gla...

OUR PRICING

EACH GIRL'S NUMBER TAG ALSO LISTS HER PRICE. FOR EXAMPLE:

123 → HER MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

P 10 → HER PANTIES: 10,000 YEN

B 11 → HER BRA: 11,000 YEN

L 9 → ¥00...

WHAT...

OUR PRICING

EACH GIRL'S NUMBER TAG ALSO LISTS HER PRICE. FOR EXAMPLE:

123

P 10

B 11

L 9

BLOOMERS!

WHEN IT COMES TO GYM CLOTHES, BLOOMERS ARE A MUST. FOR CUSTOMERS WITH THOSE SORTS OF TASTES, WE OFFER A PEEPING TOM COURSE WHERE YOU CAN WATCH THE GIRLS CHANGE IN REAL-TIME! FOR THOSE FOR WHOM THAT ISN'T ENOUGH, WE HOLD A "SPORTS DAY" EVERY WEEK, WHERE YOU'LL GET TO SEE A WHOLE PARADE OF BEAUTIFUL GIRLS IN BLOOMERS! FEEL

THE HELL?

It's so exciting when our eyes meet!

Saturday Is Sports Day!

!

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF BURUSERA SHOPS?

≠ o GLANCE

≠ o GLANCE

I'VE *HEARD* OF THEM, SURE.

I MEAN...

THEY SELL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' UNIFORMS, UNDERWEAR, BLOOMERS... THAT KIND OF THING.

STARE =''

3881

4519

THIS IS SORT OF AN OFFSHOOT OF THAT. IT'S CALLED "NAMASERA," OR "REAL-TIME SERA."

HERE, YOU CAN SEE THE GIRLS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL. YOU CAN OGLE THEM, MAYBE EVEN BUY SOME UNDERWEAR FRESH OFF THE BUNS.

?!

OOH!

PLEASE NOTE! THIS STORE DOES NOT OFFER ESCORT SERVICES IN ANY WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM!

THEY DON'T OFFER ANY SEXUAL SERVICES OR ANYTHING THAT WOULD QUALIFY AS PROSTITUTION, BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY DICEY.

ONE OF THOSE "BARELY LEGAL" BUSINESSES.

.....

I LIKE THAT ONE

HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED?

SHF...

AND WHY THE HELL DID YOU DRAG ME HERE?

PRESS ^ T

I WANT YOU TO LOOK THROUGH THIS GROUP AND FIND ME A "NEW-GEN HOMUNCULUS." THAT'S ALL.

OU WANT PURCHASE METHING NOT ERTISED, ASK A AFF MEMBER! WE MAY BE ABLE TO

S!

ES TO GYM BLOOMERS ARE A MUST FOR CUSTOMERS W THOSE SORTS OF OFFER A PE WHERE

7 EACH GE NUMBER ALSO L

.....

THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS. WHAT COULD THEY *POSSIBLY* HAVE IN COMMON WITH ME?

WHY EVEN BOTHER?

?!

I KNOW THE GENERATION GAP MEANS THEY GREW UP IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD...

BUT EVEN SO. THEY'RE HUMAN, YOU'RE HUMAN...

YOU HAVE *THAT* IN COMMON, DON'T YOU? SO WHO'S TO SAY YOU WON'T BE LINKED IN OTHER WAYS?

LOOK MORE LIKE PRODUCTS TO ME.

2955

P8

YOU SURE THESE ARE HUMANS?

PRODUCTS, HUH?

I'M SURE THEY LAUGH AND CRY, JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE.

BUT THEY'RE AS FLESH AND BLOOD AS THE REST OF US.

SURE, YOU CAN'T SEE IT THROUGH THE UNIFORM AND THE CUTE, BAGGY SOCKS...

1775

P9
B8
L6
D11
S10
ブ10
あります

THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM YOU, NAKOSHI-SAN.

1775

THEY MAY BE OFFERED AS MERCHANDISE, BUT AT HEART...

GAZE...

JUST LOOK AT HER! YOU CAN'T DENY SHE'S ATTRACTIVE.

1775

YOU SURE ARE INTO 1775, AREN'T YOU?

GUESS SO. SHE'S A REAL CUTIE...

THAT 1775.

3881

4519

DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A THING FOR MONSTERS.

PARDON ?!

STARE...

THAT GIRL IS A...?

YUP. THE ONLY ONE IN THE WHOLE LOT.

3501
P 9

1775
P 9
B 8
L 6
D 11
S 10
ブ 10
あります。

4519
P 9
B 8
L 7
D 10
S ブ 9

3881
P 9
B 9
L 8
D 11
S 9

SHHHHH

FSSSSSSSS
HHHHHH
FSSSSSSSS
HHHHHH

BSSH

1775

P98+
EBL
FSSSSSSSS
ニラララ
L.

A MONSTER MADE OF SAND.

……

YEAH.

SAND...?

S...

1775

HUNH.

THAT GIRL THERE, *EH?*

BUT IN THE SHAPE OF A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.

DRY SAND. LIKE YOU GET IN DESERTS...

サラサラ

FSSSSS

FSSSSSSSS

SAND...

BLRP.....

?!

ARE YOU HIDING FROM THE WORLD?

JUST WHAT KIND OF DISTORTION...

FSSS...

BRBL...

BLOOMERS

BIKINI OR SCHOOL SWIMSUIT

.....

.....?!

SNAP

LET'S GO AHEAD AND ORDER!

ALL RIGHT...

JUST TELL THEM THE CODE OF THE "PRODUCT" YOU WANT...

1775

THE ONLY THING BETWEEN YOU WILL BE A ONE-WAY MIRROR.

IT ENSURES YOU CAN NEI-THER SPEAK TO THE GIRLS NOR TOUCH THEM.

AND THEY'LL SHOW YOU TO A PRIVATE ROOM.

UNIFORM VIEWING: ¥1000

J

G

O

H

AND THREE POSES.

KTNK

DA!

YOU ONLY GET FIVE MINUTES...

BIP

IT ALL MEANS YOU'LL HAVE 1775'S *YOU-KNOW-WHAT* ALL TO YOURSELF. TAKE A GOOD, LONG LOOK.

1775

カ KA-
チ CHAK

I HOPE YOU AND I HAVE *LOADS* OF FUN.

I'M A HIGH SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR. MY BLOOD TYPE IS O, AND I LIKE READING, KARAOKE, AND WATCHING MOVIES.

HI THERE. I'M NUMBER 1775. I'M SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD.

1775

P	9
B	8
L	6
D	11
S	10
	7'10

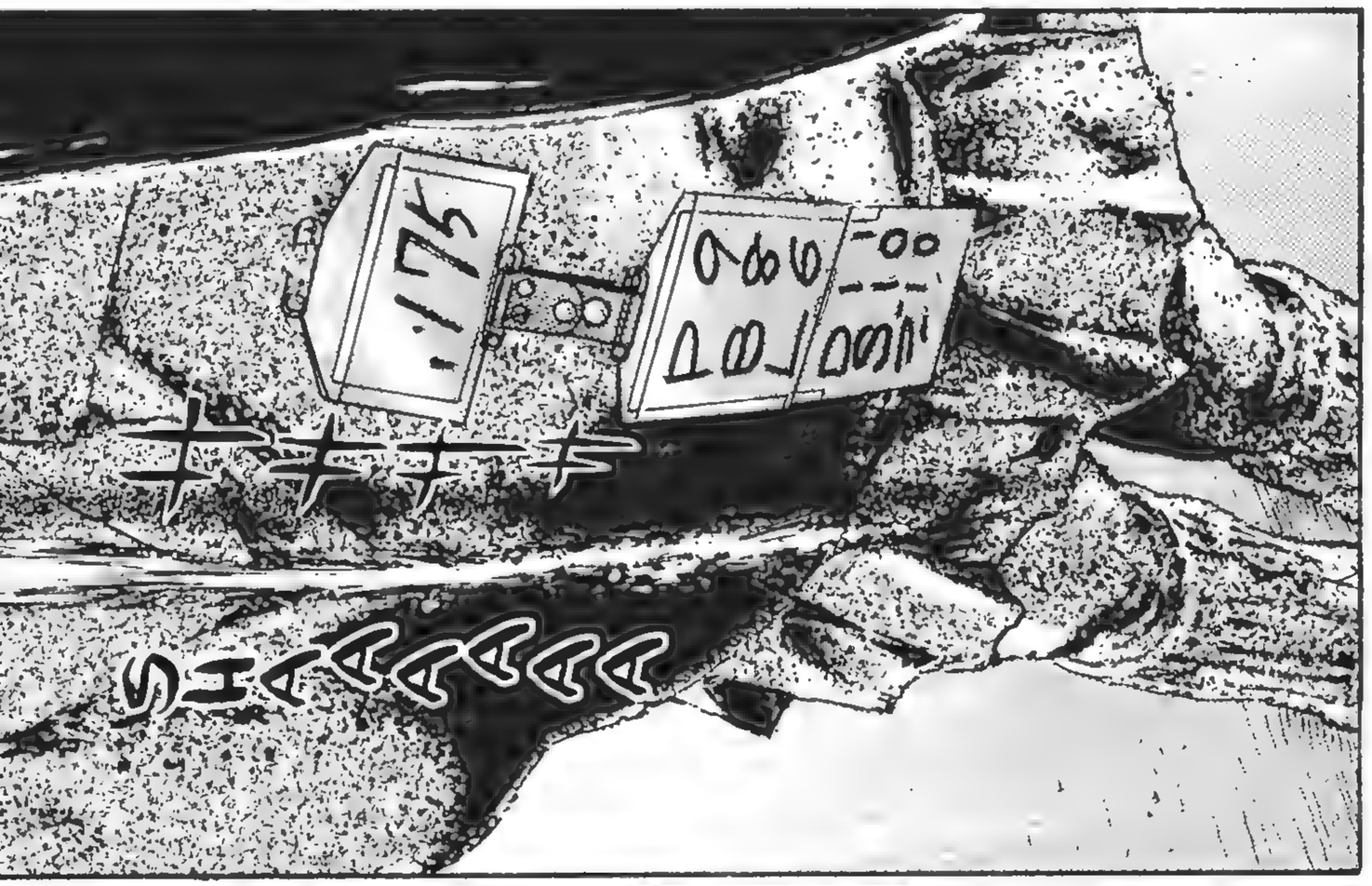
……

RM VIEWING: ¥10
J
G
UNIFORM VIEWING: ¥1000
G
……

SHWF

STARE...

FSSS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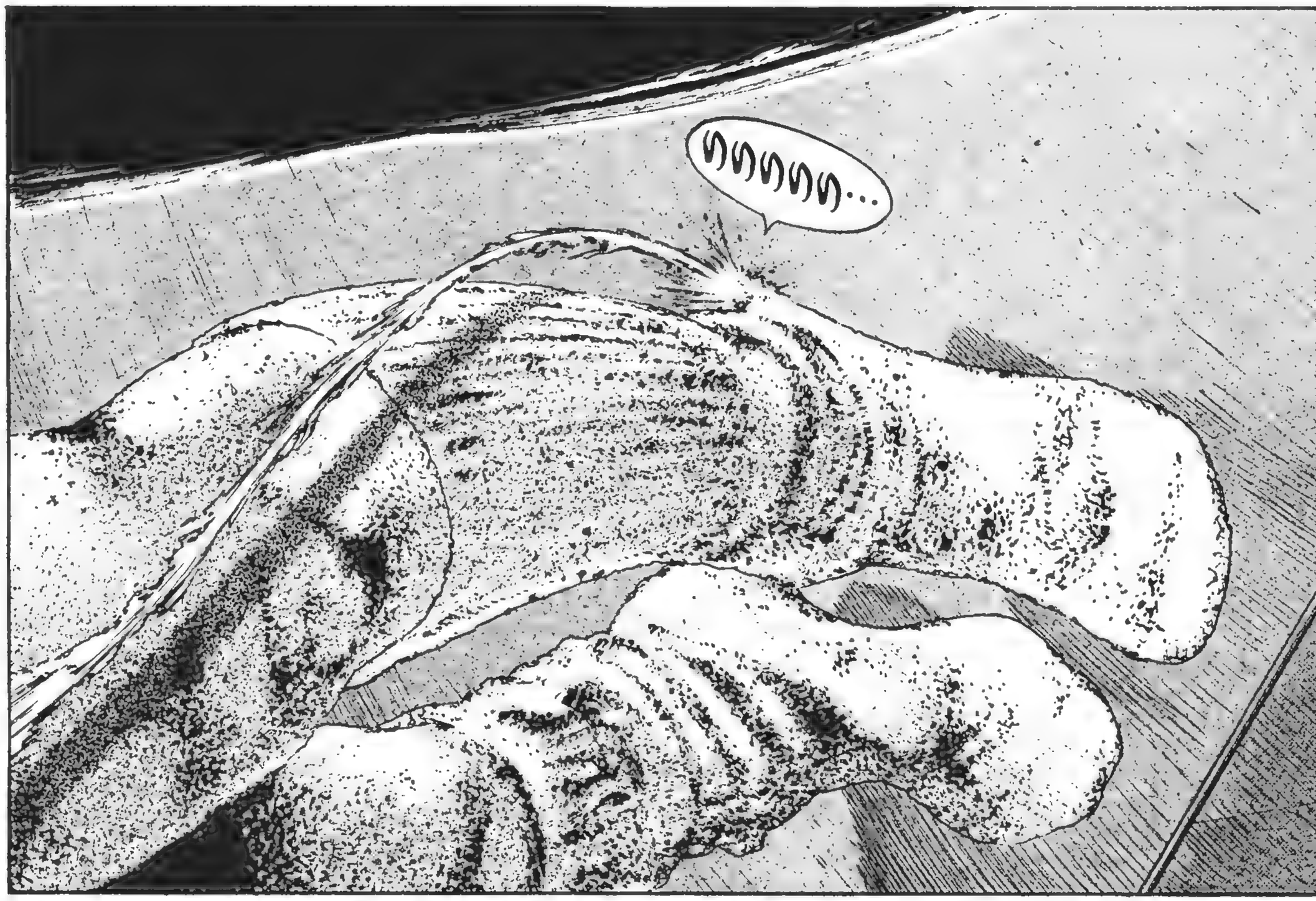
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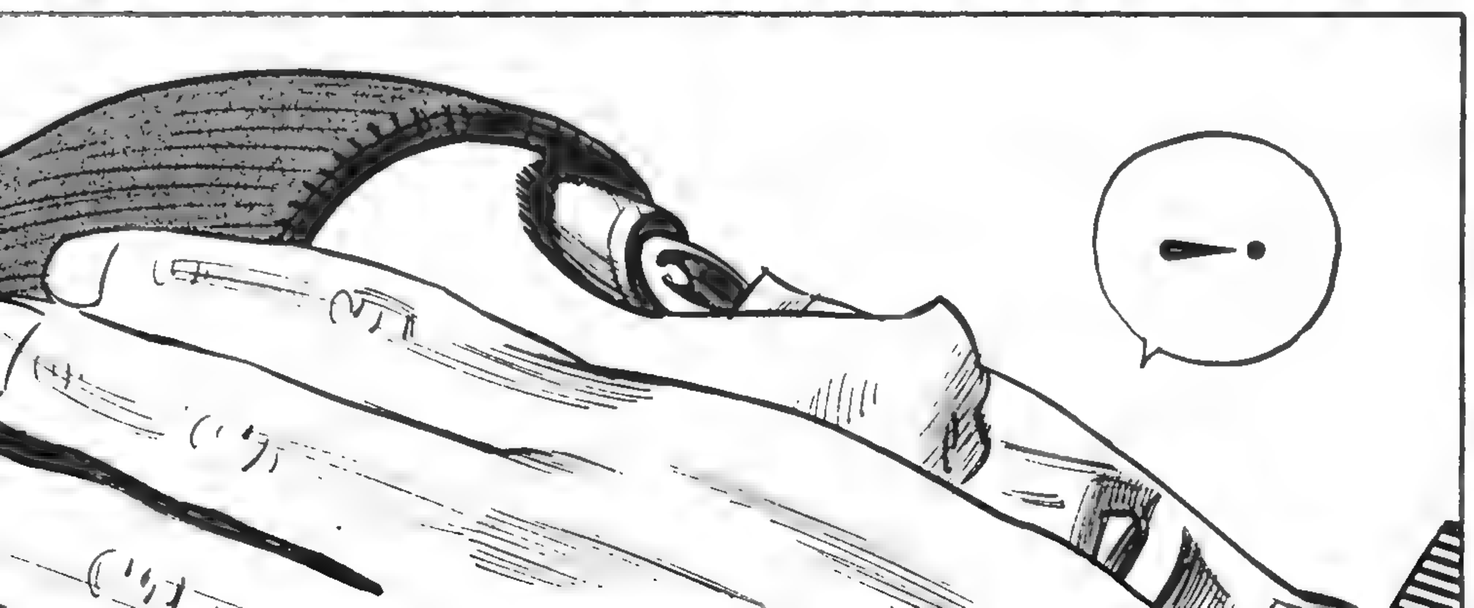
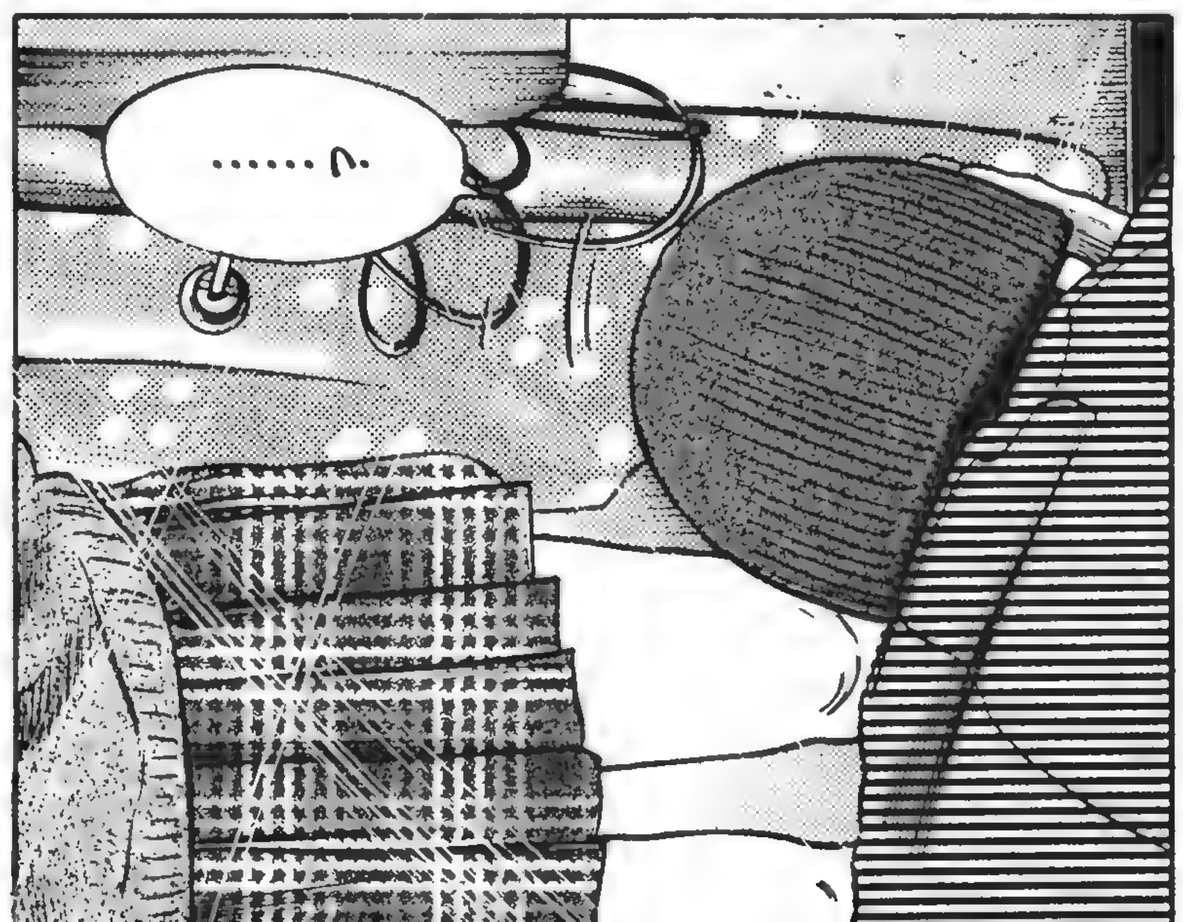



……ん。

りょくや…

BLINK

?!

STARE...

SHF

.....?

SHAAA

……?

!

BSH

DS

SHHH

BRZK

?!

……

ZAAA

ザ

ザ

ザ

SHAAAAAA

BSSSH

BSSSH

BSSSH

SHAAAAAA

BWSHHH

モコ・・・

R・・・

SHF

TEMPO: ¥1000

G

J

H

O

……

!

FWP

O

H

……

SHF...

STARE...

ZLRRR....

ZLRRR...

.....!?

!!

H!!

SKSHH

PLIP
ナラー

BSSSH

BSSH

BSSH

BSSHHH

BSSH

PWOK

……

ZA
ZA
ZA

GAZE

SMILE...

.....!

GLANCE

GLANCE

TMP

SHAAA

?!

GAPE

GAPE

GAPE

.....?

"DO I...

GAPE

"ON?"

GAPE

GAPE

"YOU...

"TURN...

FSSS

"TURN YOU ON?"

"DO I...

.....

EUGH! GOD, NO!

!

=/!!:: STUMBLE

NA...

THIS IS FUCKING SICK.

HPPP

?!

ザ
ZA

GRAB
ガ
K

ボコン
BWURK

ガ
K
CLENCH

スス
su
su
su
su
ス

SHWF

1775

PBL 986

DST 110 10

あります

KA-CHK

I'M LEAVING!

SCREW THIS!

STUMBLE

BA-TNK

WOW. HER HOMUNCULUS SOUNDS CRAZY.

BLRB BLB...

BLRB BLB...

.....

.....

THIS CHICK'S A REAL PIECE OF WORK.

Black Flus

LET'S TRY COMPARING HER TO THE YAKUZA BOSS.

A little boy inside the robot? He's trying to use his right hand to cut off the pinky of his left!

Woman left into round es.

SO IF *HE'S* THE ROBOT FROM THE FIRST *TERMINATOR*...

.....

During the kiss pose.

IS LIKE THAT ADVANCED, SHAPESHIFTING PROTOTYPE IN *TERMINATOR 2.* T-1000.

Only the numbers are real.

1775
P9
B8
L6
D11
S10

Her whole body is sand! Even her clothes!

THEN THIS GIRL...

FLAP

SHE REALLY *IS* A SYMBOL OF THE MODERN WORLD.

WHAT ?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHE'D MAKE A PERFECT CONQUEST FOR ME, WOULDN'T SHE?

全身・矽

SURRR

CON-QUEST? MEAN-ING...?

I MEAN I'M GOING TO HAVE MY WAY WITH THIS LITTLE MONSTER.

WITH *HER.* 1775.

ALL THIS SHIT WE'VE DONE WAS JUST SO YOU COULD HAVE SEX WITH A *HIGH SCHOOLER?*

WHAT THE *HELL* IS WRONG WITH *YOU?*

.....!

STARE

.....

BLRB BLUB BLRBL...

NOT WITH A HIGH SCHOOLER.

HUH?

WHY HER?

.....

WHY ARE YOU SO FIXATED ON HER?

THIS GIRL.

I THINK SHE'S CUTE! THAT'S ALL!

I'M NOT FIXATED, PER SE...

I JUST...

MUTTER...

LIAR.

WHAT WAS THAT?

HM?

NEVER MIND.

WELL, YES. I AM.

FWIP

YOU SURE SEEM CONFIDENT YOU CAN GET UP HER SKIRT.

STILL...

SHAKA

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T?

SHAA...

THAT GIRL...

?!

IS A SAND CHAMELEON.

SHAKA

SHAKA

SHAKA

SHAKA

A CHAMELEON, CHANGING HER SHAPE AT WILL DEPENDING ON WHAT'S APPROPRIATE FOR EACH SITUATION.

ZA-ZSHHHH

ZA-ZSH

SAND...

CHAME-LEON, HUH?

Only the numbers are real.

Her whole body is sand! Even her clothes!

TAP

TAP

SOCIETY *WANTS* IT TO BE A CUBE, SO IT'S BEING GOOD. IT'S POLITELY CONFORMING TO THE RULES.

THINK OF IT THIS WAY. SEE THIS SUGAR?

IT'S IN THE SHAPE OF A CUBE NOW, RIGHT?

KLAK...

One of those loud, heavily made-up types.

Woman cut into six even slices.

SHF...

PLCNK

BUT...

STARE—...

!

WINK

……

ZA ZA ZA ZA

ドサッ

DSHHHH

THERE'S A MOLD FOR IT TO FILL.

I'D BE WILLING TO BET THIS SUGAR...

PATA

BUT, IF NEED BE, IT CAN JUST AS EASILY MORPH INTO A CYLINDER.

I GETCHA.

COULD TAKE ON *ANY* SHAPE, AS LONG AS...

PATA

1775 IS JUST THE SAME.

Her whole body is sand! Even her clothes!

Only the numbers are real.

IN THIS MODERN WORLD OF HOW-TOS AND RULE BOOKS, WHERE THERE ARE A MILLION MOLDS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO FILL...

SHE CAN TAKE ON WHATEVER SHAPE SHE NEEDS TO.

.....

FSSSS...

A VERI-TABLE CHAME-LEON OF SAND.

EXACTLY.

A MASTER CONFORMER, HUH?

SHF...

IN OTHER WORDS...

SNZAD

He's whole body is sand!

PSHH!!

BBL

PATA
PATA

IN OTHER WORDS...

SHE HAS NO SHAPE OF HER OWN.

TSK!

TSK!

TSK!

SO SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY REAL PERSONALITY, THEN.

NOT QUITE. SHE JUST HASN'T *FOUND* HERSELF YET.

ﾋﾟﾗﾋﾟﾗ…

PATA PATA

……!

CAN I HELP YOU WITH...?

U.. UM...

.....

WE'RE FINE, THANKS.

SHWF

SHWF

STARE

STARE

MUTTER MUTTER

YEAH, BUT THE SUGAR SURE ISN'T...

SEE? WHEN SHE'S IN HER CONTAINER, SHE'S A "GOOD GIRL."

BUT ONCE SHE SPILLS ALL OVER THE TABLE, SUDDENLY SHE'S RUDE. A "BAD GIRL" WITH NO MANNERS.

.....

SKSH...

EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE SAME SUGAR.

AND THE SAND...

...are real.

Her whole body is sand! Even her clothes!

FSHH

Only the numbers are real.

Her whole body is sand! Even her clothes!

REPRE-SENTS HER THIRST FOR LOVE.

PATA

PATA

PATA

1775'S PARENTS ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY OF THE "RULE BOOK" GENERATION.

HER TOYS...

ADULTS WHO ONLY CARE ABOUT SYMBOLS. AND SO...

HER CLOTHES ...

IT'S ALL BEEN STRICTLY BY THE BOOK. AS IF THEY WERE GOING OFF SOME SOULLESS MANUAL.

HER UPBRINGING, HER FUTURE...

SHE WANTS TO REBEL, BUT ALL SHE CAN DO IS FOLLOW THE EXAMPLES OF THE TEENS WHO CAME BEFORE HER. BURUSERA, SHOPLIFTING...

2F

SAILOR BLUE

WALK IN: FREE

¥4000

AND THAT'S THE ONLY WAY OF LIFE THAT 1775 KNOWS.

Only the numbers real.

He who body sand Even h clothe

1775

P9 B8 L6 D11 S10

I BET 1775 WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO **START.** SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE CREATIVITY.

Even clothes!

IT'S ALL CLICHÉ. TEXTBOOK.

IF, IN ALL OF HISTORY, NO KID HAD EVER REBELLED BEFORE...

ZAA...

FUU

AND SO, UNABLE TO REBEL-- UNABLE TO SCREAM, WAIL, OR RIOT--

Her whole body is sand! Even her clothes!

Only the numbers are real.

1775

P9 B8 L6 D11 S10

Raises he heels

11°

ZAA

SHE'D SIMPLY SPIN HELPLESSLY, LIKE DESERT SAND CAUGHT IN THE BREEZE. WITH NO DIRECTION OF HER OWN.

……

SHHF…

Black Flys

DON'T YOU EVER FEEL THAT WAY YOURSELF?

FOLKS? YOU'RE TALKING LIKE AN OBSERVER.

A LOT OF FOLKS ARE LIKE THAT.

!

.....

WITH NO IDEA WHAT THE REAL YOU LOOKS LIKE?

LIKE YOU'RE CARRYING AROUND A HEART AS DRY AS A DESERT...

WE SHOULD JUST FOCUS ON STUDYING HOMUNCULI FOR NOW.

NO NEED TO TROUBLE OURSELVES WITH THE WHOLE PROJECTION CONCEPT.

ANYWAY ...

Only the numbers are real.

Her whole body is sand! Even her clothes!

1995

99 88 L6 bll S10

.....

Her whole body is sang
Even clothe

FWP

BESIDES, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING NEW JUST BY LOOKING BACK OVER THE HOMUNCULI WE'VE ALREADY SEEN.

During the kiss pose.

FWP

Actually touching the floor.

WHY COMPLICATE THINGS, RIGHT?

RAISING YOUR HEELS TO KISS A TALLER GUY IS A CLASSIC MOVIE TROPE.

I MEAN, LOOK AT THIS. IT'S PRACTICALLY A STOCK IMAGE!

TAP TAP TAP

Du
th
kis
pose.

AN EYE-ROLLING CLICHÉ FROM CHEAP DRAMAS.

Raises her heels.

to

SHF

fl

ON WHAT PLANE OF HELL IS SOMETHING LIKE *THIS* CLICHÉ?

Sand!

"Do I turn you on?"

No neck.

TAD

TAD

"I TURN YOU ON, DON'T I?" ♡

"LOOK OVER HERE! ♡

I KNOW IT'S QUITE TWISTED TO LOOK AT...

BUT THE CROTCH-FACE JUST MEANS THAT *THIS* IS WHERE HER ATTENTION IS.

.....

THEN SHE COPIES THAT LITTLE TONGUE THING YOU SEE STUPID IDOLS DOING ALL THE TIME.

!

RUSTLE

ガサ...

.....

STARE...

I'M WITH YOU THERE.

?!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH SCREWED UP SHIT IN MY ENTIRE THIRTY-FOUR YEARS.

SO GIVING BIRTH TO YOURSELF AS A SAND MONSTER IS "BY THE BOOK"?

SIIIIP!!

THIS IS THE ONE PART OF YOUR SKETCHES I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

t of
elf!!

TO BE HONEST WITH YOU...

IT FEELS LIKE A FANTASY. LIKE SHE'S DREAMING OF A NEW WORLD.

BUT YOU HAVE A POINT. THIS PART...IS NOT BY THE BOOK.

1775

Only the numbers are real

Even her cloth

Her whole body is sand!

ONE THING I CAN SAY FOR SURE...

A NEW WORLD?

1775 IS *DEFINITELY* A VIRGIN.

!

SHE FEELS DISCON-NECTED FROM SEX.

ALMOST AS IF THAT CHAPTER OF HER "MANUAL" IS MISSING.

CLENCH

"!"

out of herself!!

HER GENITALIA IS THE ONLY PART THAT ISN'T REAL-ISTICALLY RENDERED.

WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY MEAN?

THIS BIRTH...

.....

STILL...

STARE...

MUTTER

LIKE SHE'S TRAPPED IN AN ENDLESS LOOP...

MUTTER

MUTTER

MAYBE... DESPITE MULTIPLE REBIRTHS ...

SHE'S NEVER REALLY LEFT THE WOMB...?

GLRB...

SYMBOLIC FOR HER PAIN...

MUTTER

7" MUTTER !!!

7" MUTTER !!!

BLB BLB

.....

!

IN ANY CASE, I'M GOING TO TALK TO HER.

BAM

IT'S SIMPLE.

I'LL DRIVE 1775 INTO A CORNER WHERE SHE CAN'T ESCAPE, NO MATTER WHAT SHAPE SHE TAKES...

AND *YOU'RE* COMING WITH ME. STAY OUT OF SIGHT, THOUGH. I NEED YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER HOMUNCULUS WITHOUT HER REALIZING YOU'RE THERE.

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?

TI' SHH

SKSHH

AND MAKE THAT HARD SAND, PACKED TOGETHER BY RULES AND SOCIAL NORMS, CRUMBLE TO THE FLOOR.

AFTER THAT...

TSHH

TSHH

ONCE I'VE DESTROYED THE CONTAINER HOLDING HER BACK, SHE'S ALL MINE.

!

SMIRK...

SHE JUST NEEDS A *LIIITTLE* PUSH...

SHFF

SHFF

I JUST HAVE TO MAKE HER WET.

BLRBL

BLRBL...

IN ORDER TO BECOME THE PERSON SHE'S MEANT TO BE.

herself!!

A LOT LIKE SUGAR.

clothes!

1775
P9
B8
L6
D11
S10

THIS GIRL REALLY IS...

SUCH A SWEET LITTLE THING. ♡

SHIRA...

.....

THERE SHE IS NOW!

AH!

KLATTA

!

JUST WATCH. YOU'LL SEE.

OUR 1775.

I'LL GET THAT DRIED-UP HOMUNCULUS WET IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO.

BLRB

BLRBL RBL RBL

.....

Banners: Beautify, New products

Sign: Creamy Shrimp

……

PLOZA

FSSSSS.....

.....

Sonicare

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO STARE AT HER FOR?

!

HER SHAPE SHOULD EVENTUALLY CHANGE.

HOW DO YOU *KNOW* SHE'LL CHANGE?

WHEN YOU SEE IT HAPPEN, LET ME KNOW.

.....!

SHE'S A REBELLIOUS TEENAGE GIRL.

SHOP-LIFTING IS WHAT THEY DO. IT'S SIMPLE LOGIC.

A PERFECTLY RATIONAL, BY-THE-BOOK BEHAVIOR.

FSSS
サラ
ラ...

FSSS
サラ
ラ

Angel Heart

HAVANA

THEY SAY YOU SHOULD PUT GIRLS YOU'RE AFTER ON "EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTERS," RIGHT?

WHEN YOUR PULSE IS RACING, IT'S A LOT EASIER TO FALL IN LOVE. SHOPLIFTING ELICITS A PERFECT COCKTAIL OF EXCITEMENT AND ANXIETY...

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING THEN?

AND IF SHE *DOES* SWIPE SOME-THING?

EXCITEMENT AND ANXIETY, HUH?

SO I'M GOING TO USE THOSE FEELINGS TO MY ADVANTAGE.

...ЧЛЭЗА

ИЯЭЗЭМЛИ...

GRNK

HHSZZ

ЭЗЭЗ

SHHH...

.....?

ZLRRRB...

BWURSH

WHAT'S UP?

HER HEAD...

04¥1000

NUH ...?!

.....

!

THE MONSTER... ITS SAND HEAD JUST MOVED TO ITS BACK!

11° PATA

11° PATA

SHE'S ON GUARD.

SO SHE'S SHIFTED HER ATTENTION TO WHAT'S BEHIND HER.

THE HEAD'S MOVING ITS EYES ALL OVER THE PLACE.

GLANCE

GLANCE

THIS MUST BE IT.

YEAH...

GULP.

SHE'S ABOUT TO DO IT.

SHHEE...

SHE... ALREADY IS.

FSSS...

SHWF...

FWP

SHE DID IT.

YUP.

Angel Heart

LONI

WINK

04 ¥1000

SO, WHAT DOES HER HOMUNCULUS LOOK LIKE NOW THAT SHE'S GOTTEN A GOOD DOSE OF ADRENALINE?

04 ¥1000

.....!?

SSSHK

BSSSHHH

SHE DOESN'T SEEM NERVOUS OR EXCITED AT ALL.

WIGGLE

WRIGGLE

WIGGLE

WSGGLE

!

SHE'S MOVING, BUT... SHE HASN'T LOST HER COMPOSURE FOR A SECOND.

SKRRR...

SKRRR...

SKRRR...

¥1000

SHE'S NOT DONE YET...

GLANCE

GLANCE

WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE

I SEE...

SO EVEN THE NERVES HAVE BECOME ROUTINE TO HER.

.....

.....

TO 1775, SHOPLIFTING HAS BECOME JUST AN EVERYDAY HABIT...

NO DIFFERENT FROM BRUSHING HER TEETH.

OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO BREAK UP THE PATTERN.

WE'RE GOING TO GIVE HER A BRAND NEW SHOPLIFTING EXPERIENCE. *THAT* SHOULD THROW HER OUT OF SHAPE.

BREAK IT UP?

KEEP AN EYE ON HER HOMUNCULUS FOR ME.

MEANING ...?

¥1000

IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR HER TO JUST SHIFT.

FINE...

SHE HAS TO SEEM LIKE SHE'S **BREAKING.** IF SHE SEEMS UPSET, SIGNAL ME BY SCRATCHING YOUR HEAD LIKE THIS.

REMEMBER, NOT JUST A SHIFT. A *BREAK.*

.....?

TMP

WHAT EXACTLY IS HE UP TO?

B

CASHIER B

WINK

¥1000

SIGH...

……

SEIZE

HEY, YOU!

ME?

TURN OUT YOUR POCKETS. NOW.

THAT LITTLE...

PLAZA

GAWK

GAWK

I SAID, EMPTY YOUR POCKETS!

GAWK

GAWK

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SHOP-LIFTING !!

HOW'S THE SAND?

GLANCE...

DON'T YOU PLAY DUMB WITH ME!!

04¥1000

WANT ME TO CALL THE DAMN COPS ?!!

HEY !!

ズ ボ ボ ボ FSHHH SHHH

!!

SCRITCH SCRITCH

SKRR SKRR

BWSH

SMIRK...

YOUR POCKETS! NOW! HURRY UP!

TMD 円

!!

HEY THERE.

.....

TEA, PER-HAPS?

LET'S GRAB A DRINK.

FINE, WHATEVER. SEARCH ME ALL YOU LIKE.

DON'T YOU LIE TO ME!!

I'M TELLING YOU, MAN, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

HOW AWFUL.

.....

HE MUST LIVE A SAD, SAD LIFE...

YOU'D THINK HE'D HAVE GROWN OUT OF IT.

PETTY THEFT AT THAT AGE...

.....

TWITCH

TWITCH

GRAB

!!!

H...

HOLD ON...

COME ON.

PULL

AND HAVE THAT CUP OF TEA.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY...

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING IT?!

JUST CON-FESS ALREADY !!

COME ON. LET'S HURRY.

ZLRR ZLRR ZLRR

THAT'S ODD...

THIS IS ABSURD.

THAT GUY SAID...

WHAT...? BUT *WHY?*

!!

ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE, SIR!

TH...

?!

NIPPON GINKO

HERE.

I'M BUYING THESE SUNGLASSES, THEN I'M OUT OF HERE.

HOW SO?

ME? PUSHY?

YOU'RE AWFULLY PUSHY, AREN'T YOU?

?

NO, I DIDN'T.

I MEAN...

YOU LITERALLY GRABBED MY HAND AND PULLED ME HERE.

YOU *GAVE* ME YOUR HAND. ALL *I* DID WAS TAKE IT.

?!

SIP...

STARE...

FSS...

FSSS

.....

A BREAK IN PATTERN.

!

WE HUMAN BEINGS TEND TO FORM PATTERNS WITH OUR BEHAVIOR, DON'T WE?

IN THAT MOMENT... WE'LL OFTEN REACH FOR WHATEVER'S CLOSEST.

WE GO **BLANK** FOR A SPLIT SECOND.

.....?

WHEN SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS DURING OUR USUAL ROUTINE...

KTNK

EVEN IF IT'S A CREEPY HAND LIKE MINE.

!!

.....

SMIRK...

ALL THAT STUFF BACK THERE... WAS THAT YOU?

ARE YOU GOING TO BLACKMAIL ME?

I WAS ALREADY PLANNING TO TALK TO YOU *BEFORE* YOU STARTED STEALING THINGS OUT OF NOWHERE.

SO I USED THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE. THAT'S ALL.

OF COURSE NOT.

HA HA!

GAZE

STARE

I JUST THINK YOU'RE CUTE.

STARE

.....

……!

GLANCE

SHYUUN

ハッ…

HUH?

DID YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHT SIDE IS A MUCH BETTER LIAR THAN THE LEFT?

?

THAT'S YOUR "CONSCIOUS" SIDE.

THE RIGHT SIDE OF YOUR BODY.

PARDON?

.....?

WHICH MEANS YOUR LEFT SIDE...

IS YOUR *UNCONSCIOUS* SIDE.

THE SIDE OF YOURSELF THAT YOU SHOW THE WORLD...THE SIDE THAT'S PART OF SOCIETY, THAT PUTS UP FRONTS, THAT LIES...

THE SIDE THAT'S *GOOD* AT DOING WHAT'S *EXPECTED* OF IT. WHAT'S AUTOMATIC. IT'S SORT OF LIKE A ROBOT.

IN SHORT...

WE ALL WANT TO PROTECT THAT SIDE OF US. TO PROTECT OUR HEARTS.

THE SIDE OF YOU THAT FACES INWARD.

YOUR HONEST SIDE.

THAT PART BETRAYS YOUR FEELINGS EASIER.

I'M NOT SURE I UNDER-STAND.

.....

THE PART OF US THAT NEVER BECAME FULLY MECHANICAL.

RIGHT, LEFT... WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

HUMAN BEINGS HAVE A CONSCIOUS AND A SUB-CONSCIOUS SIDE.

WE USE BOTH OF THEM WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT.

BUT THAT'S NOT...

.....

RIGHT SIDE OPEN TO THE WORLD...

LEFT SIDE GUARDED.

YOUR HAIR RIGHT NOW, FOR INSTANCE.

ON THE LEFT SIDE. THE SIDE YOU WANT TO PROTECT.

YOU DO THE SAME WITH YOUR BAG. YOU KEEP IT...

THAT'S A COINCIDENCE.

BUT THAT'S ...

.....

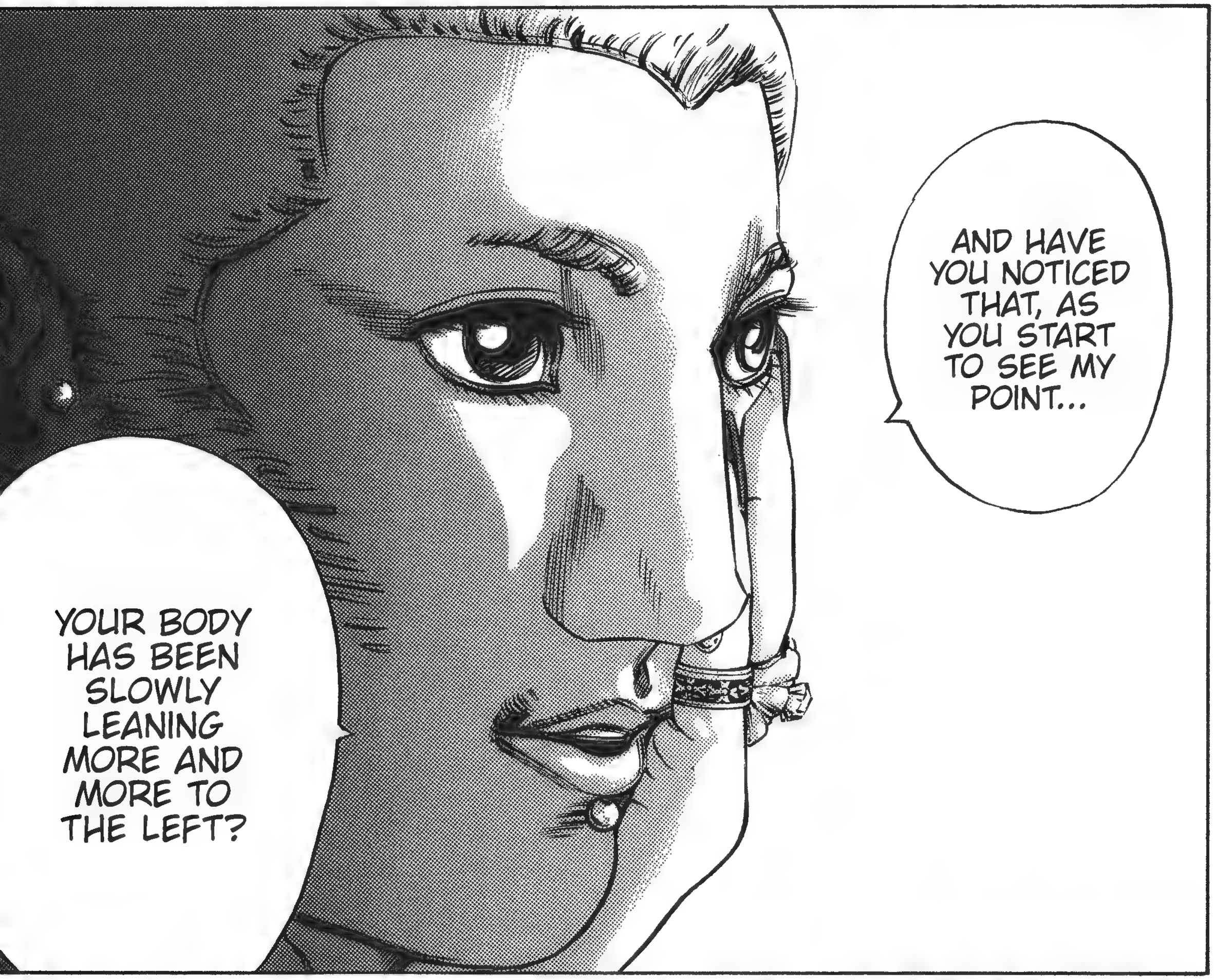
SURE, YOU *PRETENDED* TO BE CALM...

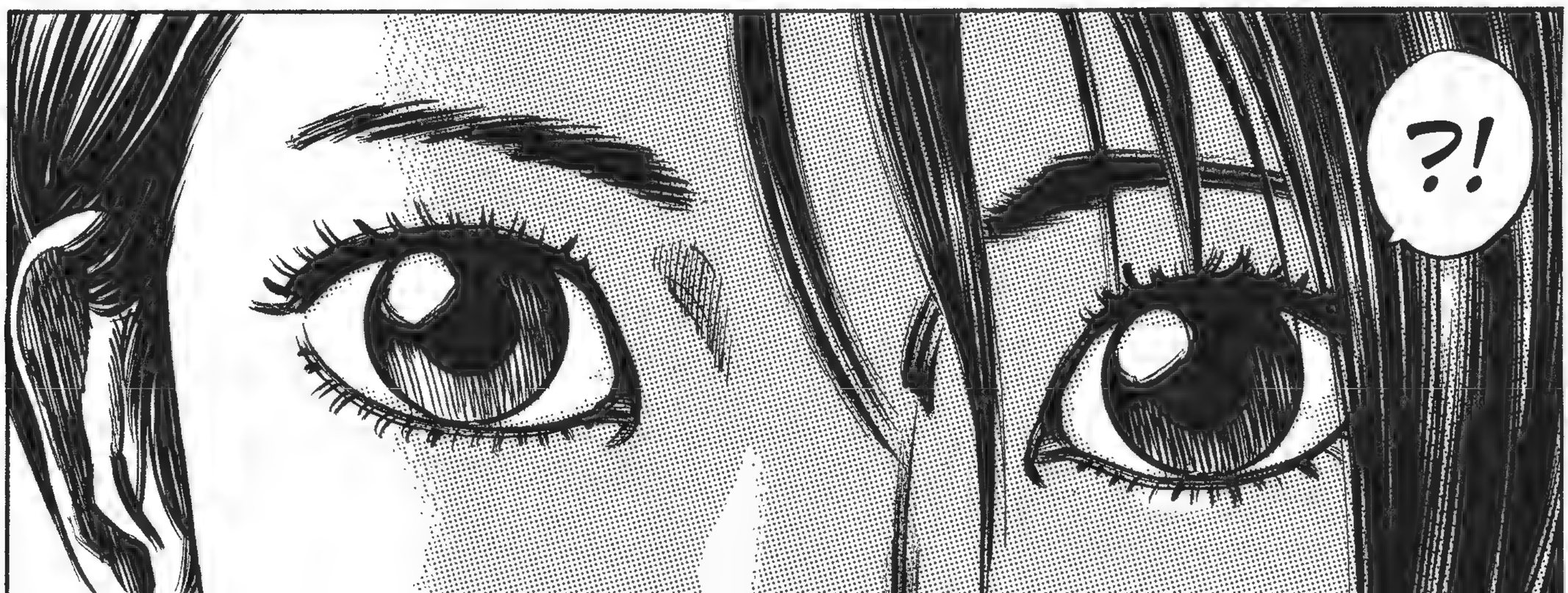
EVEN WHEN I FIRST CALLED OUT TO YOU...

BUT THAT LITTLE QUIVER IN YOUR LEFT HAND GAVE IT ALL AWAY.

TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL

.....!


AND HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT, AS YOU START TO SEE MY POINT...
YOUR BODY HAS BEEN SLOWLY LEANING MORE AND MORE TO THE LEFT?


?!

.....!

SHF

YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS.

.....

!

FWP

QUIVER

QUIVER

QUIVER

QUIVER

.....!

ZSH.....

ZSH.....

ZSHH.....

ZSH...

ZSHH.....

JOLT

SN

AP

SKRSHH

ZA ZA ZA ZA...

!

KRR

TWTCH

?!

LOOK AT THIS.

DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF MY FINGER.

THERE YOU GO.

SHWF

SHF

HALT...

!

TWTCH

.....?

MY *MIDDLE* FINGER!

NOT MY RING FINGER...

NOT MY INDEX FINGER...

ONLY MY *MIDDLE* FINGER.

NOW ANSWER ME THIS...

STARE

STARE

...

WHO ARE YOU?

HUH?

SHF

HEY!

YOU MEAN MY NAME?

FWIP

THIS FINGER.

THIS IS WHAT MATTERS.

TAK コ

コ TAK

YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN! YOU ALWAYS MOVE YOUR EYES TO THE RIGHT, ANSWERING WITH THE CONSCIOUS SIDE OF YOUR BODY.

YOUR ANSWER DOESN'T HAVE TO BE NEAT AND PRETTY...

AND YOU CAN TAKE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

SO DON'T GO SEARCHING THROUGH YOUR HARD DRIVE FOR THE "RIGHT" ANSWER LIKE SOME KIND OF MACHINE.

.....

KEEP YOUR EYES FOCUSED ON THE LEFT.

.....

JUST GIVE ME THE ANSWER THAT *FEELS* RIGHT.

WHO ARE YOU?

To be continued in *Homunculus* Volume 3.

● *Trepanation is an extremely dangerous procedure. Please do not try at home.*

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Homunculus

Volume 1-2

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HOMUNCULUS [BUNKO] Vol. 1-2
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Original Japanese edition published by SHOGAKUKAN.
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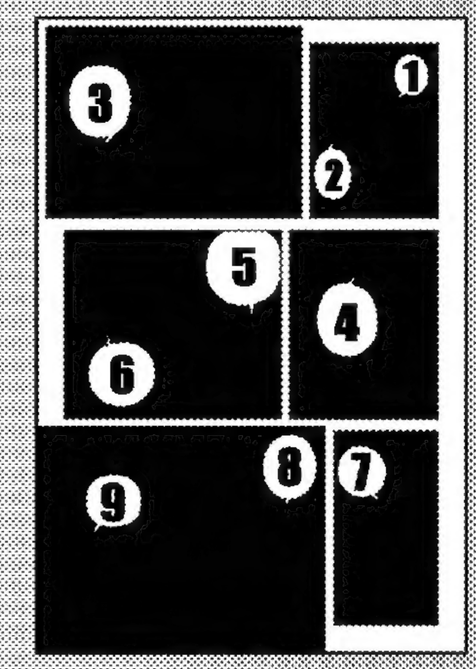
ISBN: 978-1-68579-729-4
Printed in Canada
First Printing: June 2023
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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It's All in Your Head

Nakoshi Susumu, age thirty-four, lives out of his car. Between spending his days with the homeless and his nights in his vehicle, he has little to his name. When a medical student begins to stalk him, offering to pay Nakoshi a significant sum of cash to undergo a strange surgical procedure, Nakoshi initially refuses. But after his beloved car is towed, he finally agrees to take the offer and subjects himself to the operating table. What, if anything, will Nakoshi see differently once he awakens?

From the creator of *Ichi the Killer* and *Voyeur*, the hit supernatural horror tale that inspired a live-action film on Netflix.

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